

White House Halloween stories

WASHINGTON — The White House is haunted. Some people say, especially at Halloween. "There are reports from the White House that the ghost of President John F. Kennedy is haunting the White House," a White House spokesman told reporters Thursday. "There are also reports that the ghost of President Lyndon B. Johnson is haunting the White House." The White House is now a ghost town. The White House is now a ghost town. The White House is now a ghost town.

Sinatra denies having affair with Jacqueline

LOS ANGELES — Frank Sinatra has denied having an affair with Jacqueline Kennedy. Sinatra said he and Kennedy were "just friends." Sinatra said he and Kennedy were "just friends." Sinatra said he and Kennedy were "just friends."

New diet pill going to the dogs

AMMAN — A new diet pill is going to the dogs. The pill is called "Dog Diet." The pill is called "Dog Diet." The pill is called "Dog Diet."

Diana becomes a myth

AMMAN — Diana, Princess of Wales, has become a myth. Diana, Princess of Wales, has become a myth. Diana, Princess of Wales, has become a myth.

British runaway survives 50-kilometer ride on truck axle

AMMAN — A British runaway has survived a 50-kilometer ride on a truck axle. The runaway was a car. The runaway was a car. The runaway was a car.

Lebanese civilian wounded by Israeli fire in southern Lebanon

RACHAYA (AFP) — A Lebanese civilian was wounded by Israeli artillery fire in southern Lebanon Saturday. Lebanese police said. Salman Abdullah, 55, was hit by shrapnel in the leg while grazing his sheep in the Jebel Janine region facing the self-declared Israeli "security zone" in southern Lebanon, police said. The Israeli bombardment followed a mortar attack on an Israeli position at Kawkaba in the eastern part of the self-declared zone, the Voice of the South, the radio station of the Israeli-backed militia the South Lebanon Army (SLA), said. There were no casualties in the mortar attack which was claimed in Beirut by a Hizbollah spokesman, which is spearheading the drive to force Israeli troops out of southern Lebanon.

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AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday that the general elections this week will be transparent and exemplary in the full sense of the word and that Jordanians will express their views by electing the right persons to represent them in the coming parliament.

Speaking to reporters after chairing part of the Council of Ministers' weekly meeting, King Hussein said that preparations for the Nov. 4 elections are at the highest level, and that the situation now is far better than that which prevailed four years ago. He said through this election Jordan will serve as a good example for others.

The King expressed his absolute confidence in the Jordanian people's awareness hoping that the majority of voters will contribute in choosing the best and most eligible representatives to parliament.

"There are some people

King pledges 'transparent, exemplary' general elections



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan listen to Ministry of Interior official Hani Sawaqed about the electoral process (Photo by Yusef Allan)

who are trying to marginalise the role of the coming parliament and this is unacceptable at all, because the task entrusted to the coming parliament is huge as the deputies involve themselves in the process of decision making and in shaping the future for Jordan in the light of the prevailing circumstances," King Hussein stressed.

Asked about the possibility of introducing a new elections law, the King said: "We are at the threshold of a new century and so we are searching for a new law." He said all complaints made about the present law will have to be addressed in the future and a new law has to come with the approval of the coming parliament.

Asked about the prospect of international observers to monitor the elections, the King said: "Our conscience and our love for our country serve as terms of reference for us. Our decision at the start was that democracy, respect for human rights and

public freedoms are the path which we should follow."

"In this country we challenge any other country in the region to outdo us in respecting human rights."

He said that "our terms of

reference do not come from abroad, or from any international groups."

Following the meeting which was held at the Ministry of Interior and attended by HRH Crown Prince Hassan, Acting Minister of State for Information Affairs Naser Lawzi said that the King expressed satisfaction with the Ministry of Interior's preparations for the general elections.

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Twenty per cent of next Parliament will be opposition — Armouti

He also said that another 60 candidates running as independents are affiliated with opposition parties.

Dr. Armouti also announced that efforts to correct listing procedures were intensified and around 120,000 names — including the deceased, members of the armed and security forces, as well as repeated names — were cancelled from the final list of registered voters.

As of Friday evening, 78.3 per cent of registered voters, which totalled 1,908,271 before the recent adjustments, collected their voting cards, Dr. Armouti added.

Describing this figure as "very significant," he told reporters that the number of card-holders "reflects a very high interest [in voting] among potential voters, and defuses allegations

that the interest in the elections is low."

Responding to opposition groups' concerns that members of the armed and security forces, who are barred from voting under the different laws, could cast their votes, the government announced that military and security personnel will be confined to their barracks, units, or department for two days before and one day after election day, Tuesday.

Amid widespread allegations of election fraud and concrete evidence of irregularities in pre-elections procedures, the government has recently implemented emergency measures, including the publication of voting lists and the cancellation of repeated names, as well as the referral to the prosecutor general of 11 candidates who

had collected voting cards from polling stations using forged power of attorney documents.

Declining to release the names of these candidates, Dr. Armouti firmly reiterated the government's determination "to use all measures within the extent of the law against all those candidates who tried to confiscate voting cards or committed any sort of election fraud."

Pro-boycott groups and opposition candidates, however, described the measures as inadequate and protested that those candidates found responsible for illegal acquisition of voting cards were still allowed to run in the elections.

"Not only this is unfair, but other candidates could be encouraged to do the same, unless the government takes more strict mea-

sures," said Jordan Communist Party's Emily Naffa, running for the Christian seat in Amman's 3rd District.

"Will any measure be taken against those 11 candidates before Tuesday to prevent them from running in the elections?" asked Salem Nahhas, Secretary General of the leftist Hashd, the first political party to respond to the Muslim Brotherhood's historic call, in the summer, for a general boycott.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the IAF, eight opposition parties, independent personalities, and the Union of Professional Associations announced yesterday that they will hold a press conference today to "highlight

(Continued on page 3)

King says public health strikes result in negative effects on citizen's lives

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday he disapproved strikes by public health professionals and described their action as bound to having "negative effects on the Jordanian public and on citizens' lives."

Speaking to reporters after chairing the weekly Cabinet meeting, King Hussein said that the government's handling of the situation was correct and sound adding that the strike is not in the interest of the profession or its members.

"The government is planning major projects and introducing new ideas for an overhaul of the health care services and there is no logical explanation for what is happening at the moment," the King said. He said that "any work stoppage is bound to adversely affect the public one way or another and this action should be dealt with in the manner it deserves."

At the meeting the Cabinet was briefed by Minister of Health Ashraf Kurdi who outlined the situation involving the strike carried out by the dentists, doctors and pharmacists working in 22 public hospitals and 650 health care centres.

The Cabinet approved the minister of health's measures to deal with the problem, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The professionals on Saturday observed a six-hour strike following their failure to reach agreement with Dr. Kurdi on the disbursement of extra allowances from a fund financed by hospitals' fees for treatment of the public.

Basem Dajani, spokesperson for the health employees, said the decision to strike on Saturday, Sunday and Monday was meant to back the employees' demands that the Ministry of Health abide by

the agreement the two sides reached last week. The three health associations claim that the minister has reneged on a promise to offer them 60 per cent of the fund's JD793,000 and instead offered them only 36 per cent of it.

Dr. Dajani, who is also the president of the Jordan Medical Association, said that the health professionals were open for dialogue with the government and will deal with emergency cases during the work stoppage.

The three associations Saturday placed an advertisement in the local dailies containing their complaints and their plans for the strike.

In a bid to canvas more support for their stand, the three associations invited former health ministers and former presidents of associations to join them in presenting their case and to discuss further action to secure their rights.

Netanyahu pandering to extremists, King tells Washington Post

WASHINGTON (AFP) — King Hussein told The Washington Post in an interview Saturday that he has little trust in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, portraying Israel's recent failed assassination attempt in Amman as an "act against Jordan itself."

The high-profile Sept. 25 assassination attempt in Amman by Israeli Mossad agents against Hamas politician Khaled Misha'al was an "act against Jordan itself, its integrity and its sovereignty, and the results were devastating to the trust we have built so far,"

the King told the Post in an interview.

The King accused Mr. Netanyahu of failing to fulfil promises to his Arab negotiating partners, and pandering to extreme right-wing Israeli political factions.

King Hussein believes that the collapse of Arab-Israeli peace negotiations can be prevented only by strong, vigorous diplomatic intervention by the United States.

"The United States, with its tremendous influence and impact on this area and all the people of the region, and its position in the world, should move from being a messenger

to being actively involved," the King told the newspaper.

"It just cannot carry on continuing to deliver messages from one side to another."

The King confirmed reports that he conveyed an offer to Israel from Hamas leaders on a possible 10-year moratorium on violence. The message was sent just two days before the Israeli secret service tried to kill Mr. Misha'al.

The King, however, made it clear to the Post that he was not abandoning Jordan's policy of pursuing peace with Israel.

Iraq says decision to expel U.S. arms inspectors irreversible

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq said Saturday that its decision to expel U.S. members of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarmament was irreversible and that it did not fear a U.S. military reprisal.

France and Russia urged Iraq, meanwhile, to reconsider its decision to end cooperation with U.S. weapons inspectors and said the U.N. was the proper forum to resolve the latest crisis with Baghdad.

Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan, speaking to reporters at the opening of the Baghdad international fair, said Iraq's decision to expel U.S. members of UNSCOM was "without appeal until order is restored."

"With the expiry of the date [set by Iraq for the departure of U.S. weapons inspectors from Iraq] no Americans with UNSCOM will remain in Iraq," he said.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has ordered Americans working with UNSCOM to leave the country by Nov. 5, triggering

warnings of "severe consequences" from the U.N. Security Council.

MR. Ramadan said Iraq would welcome a visit by a U.N. envoy to discuss the latest crisis with UNSCOM, which needs to certify that Iraq's arsenal of ballistic, chemical and biological weapons has been destroyed before economic sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait can be lifted.

"Our doors are open to any person who wants to learn about the situation and make a positive contribution," the Iraqi vice-president said.

But he lashed out at UNSCOM chief Richard Butler, an Australian, saying "Butler cannot give orders to Iraq and does not govern Iraq."

Asked about the possibility of U.S. military reprisals, Mr. Ramadan said "Iraqis are used to such attacks and knowing why their country takes this position [against U.S. arms inspectors] will only reinforce their determination."

Asked whether there would

be an Iraqi response to a possible U.S. strike, Mr. Ramadan replied: "Of course."

He said Iraq "did not want to provoke a crisis, but after seven years of embargo, neither the head of the Security Council nor the U.N. secretary-general can say when the UNSCOM mission will end and when the embargo will be lifted."

"I think that after seven years it is our right to know when the embargo will be lifted," the vice-president said.

Meanwhile, an official Iraqi daily, Al Jumhuriyah, appealed to China, France and Russia to play a "positive role" and prevent a confrontation with the United States.

"Calls by Moscow and Beijing to rule out the use of force must translate into a practical and immediate initiative by three countries — France, China and Russia — to open a dialogue and listen to Iraq's position," it said.



By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

JERASH — The elections banners hovering over the streets of the northern city of Jerash might lead one to believe that a furious political race is underway in this governorate, a tourist hotspot and agricultural expanse.

But as election day approaches, the race for Jerash's two seats under the dome, as predicted by many, is thus far uninspiring and exhibits a heavy trend towards tribal favourites.

Here, signs of real political savvy are lacking: no candidate is running on a party ticket; independent opposition figures are also conspicuously absent in the narrow array of candidates; there is little to no mention of the Islamist-led boycott, nor does the closure of 13 weekly newspapers feature in any campaign banner.

In fact, a question as to the

best candidates put to residents shopping in a small supermarket in Jerash inspired a round of laughter from gentlemen gathered at the till.

"Our friends and cousins are our best choice," said proprietor, Zuhair, 35. "There are no politicians here."

Even Jerash's "upgraded" political status — from an Irbid district to a governorate in its own right according to minor amendments to the elections law promulgated in May — has failed to generate much enthusiasm for elections.

"The number of seats didn't change," said Zuhair, "and without more representation, people don't feel that it will bring any specific benefit to them."

Recent press reports criticised Jerash candidates for conducting campaigns that "emphasise individuality at the expense of political programmes" and the number of candidates contesting the race seems to support their claim.

In Jerash, which holds two Muslim seats, the limited

number of seats combined with the excessive number of candidates does not seem to have encouraged many candidates to withdraw from the race even to align backing within tribes. Only two have withdrawn from the race since campaigning commenced in mid-October, and three short days before elections, Jerash still boasts 22 hopefuls.

Nearly one-third of these hail from the dominant Bani Hassan tribe, among them former deputy and former minister of state Mufleh Ruheimi, who many say is one of the strongest candidates in the race. He won in 1993 with 4,893 votes. Also among the Bani Hassans are: Abdul Rahman Khawaldeh, Abdullah Khawaldeh, Amin Khawaldeh, Khalil Qara'an and Mohammad Zboun.

Although analysts have said that Mr. Ruheimi's chances have been diminished by the presence of the six other candidates from the Bani Hassan, he is also relying on the "indirect" backing of the National Constitutional Party, as one of the party's

controversial "stealth" candidates.

A volunteer in the Ruheimi campaign admitted that Mr. Ruheimi has not officially disclosed his affiliation to the party for fear of losing tribal backing.

"It's true, what they say in the press," the volunteer said. "Should he declare an allegiance to a party, much of his support would be lost. Parties aren't an accepted thing here yet. Tribes think that affiliation to a party compromises tribal interest."

His campaign, the volunteer admitted, is based mainly on the promise of public sector jobs to area residents.

Also among the most promising are Mahmoud Etoum, a former judge; Atef Theibat, a professor of sociology at Yarmouk University and Riad Ahmad Othman, representing Jordanians of Palestinian origin, who will be relying on votes from the Souf refugee camp. It is expected that he may get as many as 5,000 votes in the camp.

Although two candidates from the Etoum tribe originally registered as candi-

dates, Ali Kayed Etoum has withdrawn in favour of Mahmoud Etoum. Analysts expect that if this tribe can organise some "swing" votes, Mr. Etoum will join Mr. Ruheimi in representing Jerash in the 13th Parliament.

But on the street, there seemed to be neither consensus of support to any particular candidate, nor interest, among residents of the two cities and the sentiments about participating in these elections expressed by many belied official statistics.

As of Saturday, official statistics showed that in the Jerash governorate, where 55,488 voters are registered, 92 per cent had collected their voting cards.

But no resident interviewed by the Jordan Times expressed an interest in voting.

"We know the parliament," said one man, who identified himself as a "member of Bani Hassan."

"The next will be the same as ones that came before. We've learned from experience — all talk and no action. What's the use?"

Mubarak negative on regional economic conference in Qatar

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said here Saturday that the regional economic conference scheduled for Nov. 16-18 in Qatar should not be held because of Israeli policies on the peace process.

"I don't see any sense in holding the economic conference because of the current Israeli government's lack of respect for agreements," concluded with the Arabs, Mr. Mubarak told United Arab Emirates television.

"The [annual] economic conference started in Morocco, then was held in Amman and then Cairo when there was progress in peace making."

"But this process is now at a halt," added Mr. Mubarak, who began his two-day visit to the emirates Friday.

However, Mr. Mubarak said that his country "is awaiting until the last minute the results of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations scheduled for Monday in Washington" before making a final decision on whether to attend the Qatari conference.

"We hope that the United States will get Israel to implement the accords with the Palestinians," he said.

"The U.S. is making every possible effort to move the peace process forward, but the obstinate Israeli government is

harming the peace process," he said.

The U.S. got the Israeli-Palestinian talks going again at the beginning of October with great difficulty, seven months after the negotiations were suspended after Israel began work on a new Jewish housing project on the edge of east Jerusalem.

Washington is trying to obtain results to facilitate Arab participation at the Doha conference. The new Israeli-Palestinian talks are expected to last several days.

"Egypt still believes that substantial progress... on a halt of Israeli settlement activities or on an Israeli redeployment [from the West Bank] would encourage participation in the conference," Mr. Mubarak said.

Most Arab countries, except for Jordan and Yemen, have not yet announced whether they will participate in the conference.

Mr. Mubarak said he discussed with the UAE president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, "the importance of holding an Arab summit and ways of closing Arab ranks."

"When we see the possibility of holding such a summit and when there are problems making it necessary, I think that no [leader] in the Arab World will miss it," he said.

Kuwait Chamber of Commerce to boycott Doha conference

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) will not send an official delegation to a regional economic conference in Doha which will be attended by Israel, an official said Saturday.

KCCI "is not going to attend" the Middle East and North Africa economic conference, although companies and businesses are free to send a representative on an individual basis, the director-general, Ahmad Al Haroun, told Agence France Presse.

The chambers of commerce in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have all said they will not attend the controversial meeting to be held in Doha on Nov. 16-18, which will include an Israeli delegation.

The Qatari embassy was informed of KCCI's position in letter sent on Oct. 21 and signed by KCCI President Abdul Razzaq Al Khaled, Mr. Haroun said.

He said the chamber of commerce did not send an official delegation to any of the previous gatherings in Casablanca, Amman and Cairo, in protest at Israel's stand in the peace process. This position has not changed, he added.

"Nobody has informed us that they are going to attend or not," Mr. Haroun said.

Some 10 Kuwaitis told the chamber ahead of the Cairo meeting last year that they planned to attend. The Kuwaiti government has yet to announce if it will send a delegation. In October, three Islamic movements urged the government not to go.

Several Arab states have said they will boycott the conference or have made their attendance conditional on progress in the Middle East peace process which they blame Israel for undermining.

The emirates president reiterated Saturday his appeal for inter-Arab reconciliation, saying it was time "to forget the past," a reference to the 1990-91

Gulf crisis.

He has also called previously for the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in 1990.



Several thousand demonstrators gather at the headquarters of the U.N. Development Project (UNDP) in Baghdad Saturday, bearing banners and portraits of President Saddam Hussein. The protesters set fire to American and Israeli flags, and chanted anti-American slogans before being dispersed by police. Iraq said it would not allow American arms inspectors to take part in U.N. inspections due to resume on Monday (Reuters photo)

Thousands of Arabs burn U.S. flag in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Thousands of Arabs, including Iraqis, demonstrated Saturday afternoon in the centre of Baghdad, burning the U.S. and Israeli flags.

Some 3,000 people, including Iraqis, Palestinians, Egyptians, Lebanese and Algerians, demonstrated outside the offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), before burning the U.S. and Israeli flags.

A delegation gave UNDP

officials a statement demanding "the lifting of the unfair embargo imposed on Iraq" and condemning U.S. policy on Iraq, the demonstrators' organisers said.

The demonstrators carried banners condemning Resolution 1134, adopted by the U.N. Security Council last week, and chanted slogans against the U.S.

They also carried portraits of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and made victory signs.

It was the first demonstration to be held in Baghdad since the adoption of Resolution 1134, which threatens Iraq with further sanctions if it continues to obstruct the work of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with dismantling it.

Other rallies were held Saturday in several other Iraqi cities for the third day in a row, including in Basra in the south, where, according to the organisers, "some 10,000

people gathered to protest against American policy."

Baghdad Wednesday gave U.S. experts working with UNSCOM until Nov. 5 to leave the country in protest at Resolution 1134.

The Security Council decided Friday to increase diplomatic pressure on Baghdad over the weekend to reverse its decision. But Baghdad has said time and again that its "decision is irrevocable."

'Netanyahu map based on same criteria as Rabin's'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli government of Benjamin Netanyahu is using the same security criteria as the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to assess any territorial concessions to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav said Saturday.

Speaking in an interview with Israeli state television's Channel 1, he said: "The frontiers of Israel will be fixed using the same criteria that the late prime minister, Yitzhak Rabin, used to draw up a map answering our security needs."

"It is on the basis of this map, which has been

accepted by the government, that we will decide what territorial concessions we are prepared to make and how large the next phase of our military withdrawal [from the rural areas of the West Bank] will be," Mr. Katzav said.

Asked about the talks which Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy is due to

hold Monday with PNA negotiator Mahmoud Abbas, in Washington, he said: "We are not talking about creating new [Jewish] settlements [in the occupied territories], only about the need to expand those that already exist."

"Israel is committed to its undertaking to carry out a second redeployment in

Judea and Samaria [the West Bank] and it will happen," he added.

"What we are proposing to the Palestinians is that we postpone it — for security reasons — until there's a final settlement [of the Palestinian problem]."

At the moment the PNA only controls the larger towns of the West Bank, or

three per cent of the territory's land area, and about 65 per cent of land area of the Gaza Strip.

Under the terms of the Israeli-Palestinian accords, Israel should have started pulling out of the rural areas of the West Bank in three stages which were due to have been completed by mid-1998.

Egyptian Museum gunmen refusing to appeal for pardon

CAIRO (AP) — Two brothers sentenced to death for killing nine German tourists and their Egyptian driver are unrepentant and have no plans to ask for a pardon, a newspaper quoted their lawyer as saying.

Saber and Mahmoud Abu El Ulla pleaded guilty to the Sept. 18 massacre outside the Egyptian Museum in downtown Cairo and were sentenced to death Thursday. "They think that what they did is right," their lawyer, Osama Mahmoud, told the London-based Al Hayat newspaper. "Their longing for death is stronger than that for life. They think they will be martyrs."

The sentence by a military court cannot be appealed and the only recourse the brothers have would be to ask President Hosni Mubarak for a pardon. Mr. Mahmoud said the brothers have no intention of asking for a pardon.

Saber Abu El Ulla, a former asylum inmate, had told reporters during the trial that he staged the attack to defend Islam and to punish Europe.

"A death sentence would be like a day of feasts," Saber said before the verdict. Egyptian officials have said the attack was not linked to Islamist militants, who have waged an insurgency since 1992 to topple Mr. Mubarak's government and replace it with strict religious rule. Saber, Ulla, however, has said he sympathises with the militants and would have joined them if he had the chance.

Islamist group takes part in Morocco elections

RABAT (R) — Morocco's Islamist-leaning Popular Constitutional and Democratic Movement (PCDM) on Saturday said that 148 candidates, including three women, will run under its banner for the general elections due on Nov. 14.

A total of 16 political parties are taking part in the elections, including six opposition groups. The PCDM is the only Islamic-leaning group.

"Despite the government's attempts to margin-

alise our movement we have decided to participate in the legislative elections with 148 candidates to cover the main urban areas," PCDM leader Abdulkarim Khatib said at a news conference.

Mr. Khatib said the party "had frozen its participation in elections for nearly two decades because of lack of transparency in the polls."

The party's appeal among voters was boosted last year when the tolerated Islamist Attawhid Wal Islah Move-

ment (Unity And Reform) joined it.

PCDM leaders told reporters that the party has a long-term economic and social platform that targets issues such as corruption, illiteracy and bureaucracy. It also calls for an independent judiciary system, respect of human rights and freedom of speech.

The programme is based on Morocco's cultural traditions and spiritual values of Islam, he said.

In a statement released on

Saturday, the interior ministry said: "A preliminary report showed that the number of candidates for legislative elections reached 3,319 or an average of 10 candidates per constituency."

The opposition old-guard Istiqlal and Socialist Union of Peoples' Forces parties respectively registered candidates for 322 and 315 constituencies, the ministry said.

The election campaign, which started on Saturday

will end on Nov. 13 at midnight, it added.

Under a constitutional referendum overwhelmingly approved last year, parliament is to be split into two with a directly elected lower house of 325 members and an upper house (Majlis Al Mustasharin — Chamber of Counsellors).

Under the law, three-fifths of the 270-member Upper House were chosen by the country's elected local councils.

The Upper House will

have the power to topple the government through a no-confidence motion, with most of its members being chosen by the local councils, a spokesman said earlier.

Last August, King Hassan reshuffled the government of Prime Minister Abdulatif Filali, telling 20 ministers with political party affiliations, including the finance minister, he wanted them to step down so they could focus on the election campaign.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Little Rosey
14:30 Jonny Quest
14:50 The Magic School Bus
15:00 Energy Express
15:30 American Chart Show
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 French Programmes
19:00 News in French
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Fresh Prince of Belair
20:00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
20:30 Hot Shots
21:10 Renegade
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Bourne Identity
23:15 The Jewel in the Crown

PRAYER TIMES

04:30 Fajr
05:48 (Sunrise) Duha
11:19 Dhuhr
14:23 'Asr
16:50 Maghreb
18:08 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331

Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church
Tel. 5516345

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 688404

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932

Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Temperatures are expected to rise slightly but remaining around average, skies partly cloudy, and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, moderate weather conditions with prevail, skies appearing at different altitudes, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.

Amman 14/24
Aqaba 19/30
Deserts 12/26
Jordan Valley 19/31

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 22, Aqaba 28 Humidity
readings: Amman 52 per cent,
Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fayer Dabbas 759155
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140
Dr. Fakher Bilbeisi 5522233
Dr. Mazen Nballi 830435
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 644945
Najib pharmacy 637660
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 636730
Shmeisani pharmacy 636381
Najib pharmacy 847632
Dr. Ahmad Qam 281484
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Mazen Safarini 985832

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279
The Islamic Abdali 66613637
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

J. Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Co. 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity 644281/6

Akileh Maternity 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279

The Islamic Abdali 66613637

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital

09/983323

Zarqa National Hospital

09/900560

Ibn Sina Hospital 09/986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital

09/990990

IREID:
Princess Basma Hospital

02/275555

Greek Catholic Hospital

02/127275

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital

02/247100

(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone 08 (532700)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

07:50 Larnaca (RJ)

08:35 Jeddah (RJ)

09:00 Bombay (RJ)

09:00 Aqaba (add) (RJ)

09:15 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

09:50 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

10:05 Beirut (RJ)

16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:00 Brussels, Geneva (RJ)

06:30 Larnaca (RJ)

17:05 Paris (RJ)

17:35 Madrid, Malin (RJ)

17:45 London (RJ)

18:05 Athens (RJ)

18:15 Dhaka (add) (RJ)

19:40 Rome (RJ)

20:10 Frankfurt (RJ)

21:10 Vienna (RJ)

00:05 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights

03:25 Rome (AZ)

10:00 Sanaa (TY)

12:25 Bahrain (GF)

13:00 Moscow (SU)

15:00 Doha (QR)

17:45 Jeddah (SV)

20:00 Tel Aviv (LY)

20:10 Beirut (ME)

20:40 Cairo (MS)

23:10 Istanbul (TK)

Royal Wings (RW)

07:45 Aqaba (RW)

09:05 Amman (QAIA) (RW)

09:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

17:20 Tel Aviv (RW)

18:30 Amman (QAIA) (RW)

21:20 Aqaba (RW)

22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:20 Beirut (RJ)

06:30 Aqaba (add) (RJ)

10:40 Frankfurt (RJ)

10:50 Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)

11:15 Rome (RJ)

Queen opens Jordan River Designs' annual fall exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday opened the Jordan River Designs' (JRD) annual fall exhibition at the JRD Showroom in Jabal Amman, according to a press release Saturday.

The exhibition, which was organised by the Jordan River for Development Projects (JRDP), included gift baskets for Ramadan and Christmas, home accessories, and products from JRDP's Wadi Rayyan Production Centre. The centre, which is located in northern Shuneh, trains women basket and mat weaving using banana leaves and bamboo canes, according to the statement.

The project, which provides employment opportunities for women of the community, raises environmental awareness by teaching the community to recycle banana leaves and bamboo canes that were previously burnt, the statement continued.

Queen Noor was briefed on JRDP's "Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect" programme, which plans to establish a child protection unit responsible for the investigation and treatment of all cases of child abuse, as well as "safe" houses in Amman. The programme is working in close cooperation and coordination with the National Task Force for



Her Majesty Queen Noor and Her Royal Highness Princess Rania Saturday attend the opening of the Jordan River Designs fall exhibition (Petra photo)

Children, which is chaired by Queen Noor, to lobby for changes in existing child protection laws, particularly those pertaining to child abuse, the announcement read.

Queen Noor concluded her visit by touring Dana Nature Reserve's showroom, which exhibited earth-colour quilts and products from the reserve, the press release continued.

JRD is an urban income-generation programme that creates jobs for over 1,700 women living in

underprivileged communities. Both traditional and modern handicrafts and home furnishings are produced, including bed-covers, cushions, wall hangings, bags, and natural olive oil soap, according to the press release.

JRD, which was established by the Save the Children Fund in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in 1987, has been transferred to the JRDP, a non-profit organisation under the presidency of HRH Princess Rania Abdullah.

whose objective is to "improve the financial, cultural, health, social, educational, and technical skills and the well-being of the community at large," the announcement continued.

Queen Noor was received by JRDP President HRH Princess Rania, JRD Director Osama Sayyed, JRDP board members, the staff and beneficiaries of JRD, and Director of the Prevention of Child Abuse Project Lina Hussein-Shami, the statement concluded.

Cabinet endorses plan to 'encourage' retirement of government employees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Saturday endorsed a plan by which qualified government employees can, upon retirement, collect pensions on a pay scale that is five annual increments higher than their current salary.

In a statement released by Acting Minister of State for Information Affairs Naser Lawzi, the Cabinet said the offer is

good for one month only, starting Nov. 1, 1997, and is designed to encourage eligible employees to retire after serving 20 years.

The application should be approved by the concerned minister and the council, the statement noted.

The Cabinet also reviewed a report by Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid on his ministry's

strategy and its achievements over the past several months.

Mr. Rashid surveyed the ministry's responsibilities for ensuring safety and security for the public and measures to deal with crime and protect public freedoms in accordance with the new strategy.

The Cabinet endorsed recommendations to promote several diplomats serving at the foreign min-

istry and created a delegation to take part in the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation meeting due to open in Rome on Nov. 12 and another to take part in an international youth conference in Khartoum on Nov. 4.

The Cabinet also approved an agreement between the Vocational Training Corporation and the Mauritanian vocational training corporation.

Government signs \$20 million loan to help finance social security plan

AMMAN (Petra) — In a bid to raise funds to finance the social security package plan, the government Saturday initiated an agreement with the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development to receive a \$20 million loan.

The fund's loan, according to an official statement, will be used to finance the development of infrastructure services in the less

developed regions of the Kingdom.

Ministry of Planning officials said the government is awaiting a mission from the Islamic Development Bank to discuss the project and receive an offer of \$10 million for this project.

At the same time, government sources said Jordan was in contact with the Italian and Norwegian governments to secure sufficient

funds to begin implementing the social security package plan by the beginning of 1998, during which it is planning to spend \$150 million.

The government, which has said at least JD430 million will be needed for the multi-year project, announced that it had made \$30 million available from its own resources, and the World Bank has offered

another \$30 million in loans.

The sources noted that Germany has already offered Jordan an \$11 million grant. Japan has offered \$10 million worth of hospital equipment, and the Italian government was expected to grant Jordan \$29 million to finance the country's wastewater treatment plants, which are part of the infrastructure plan.

China invited to take part in Kingdom's cultural events

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday invited China to take an active part in Jordanian cultural activities by sending folklore troupes to Jordan's cultural events, particularly the annual Jerash Festival.

During a meeting with visiting Chinese Minister of Culture Lio Chiong, Dr. Majali said "we look forward to further bolstering Jordanian-Chinese ties, not only in culture but also in various other fields."

The prime minister urged China to participate in the cultural activities of Jordanian universities, which for their part will be ready to offer seats to Chinese students.

Commending China's friendly ties with Jordan, Dr. Majali said the Kingdom appreciates China's official and popular stands vis-à-vis the Arab Nation's causes.

Mr. Chiong expressed appreciation for the hospitality accorded to him and his delegation and stressed that bilateral ties are excellent and based on mutual respect.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Minister of Culture and Youth Qassem Abu Ein meet with a visiting Chinese delegation Saturday and discuss cooperation in cultural and educational fields (Petra photo)

He also praised Jordan's moderate policies and its pro-peace stance and thanked Dr. Majali for assigning seats for Chinese

students at Jordanian universities. He said his country was willing to take part in the Kingdom's artistic and cul-

tural activities. The meeting was also attended by Minister of Culture and Youth Qassem Abu Ein.

8 sentenced to death for 1993 murders

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Criminal Court last week sentenced eight men to death after they were found guilty of bludgeoning a man and his son to death during a brawl in the Wadi Seer area in October 1993.

The eight men sentenced to death by the tribunal Thursday were Ahmad Mohammad, 27, Ahmad Salim, 20, Sa'eed Mahmoud, 24, Eid Mohammad, 29, Mohammad Khalil, 60, Mahmoud Khalil, 55, and Mifidi Khalil, 70.

They were declared guilty by the tribunal for

the premeditated murder of Salim Salameh, 49, and his 20-year-old son Jamil on Oct. 20, 1993.

The court, headed by Judge Mohammad Ajameh and including Judges Mifleh Mobeidin and Issa Hamdan, also acquitted Aminah Mifidi, 30, who had been detained since December 1995, of complicity in the murder for lack of evidence and "because of the witnesses' contradictory statements."

"Some witnesses said they saw the defendant beating and stoning the two victims, and others testified that she was only standing near the fights and holding a stick, and because of the contrary

statements we decided to acquit Ms. Mifidi of the charges," the court said.

According to court transcripts, the defendants, all from the same family, had several quarrels with the victims and their family four months prior to the incident over a piece of land in the Iraq Al Amir area in Wadi Seer.

The court stated that the eight defendants met on Oct. 19, one day before the incident, and planned to lure the two victims to a garage and beat them with sticks and rocks.

On the evening of the murder, the court maintained, the nine defendants asked the two victims to meet with them to discuss their feud.

"When the two victims arrived, all nine defendants surrounded them and started beating them with rocks and wooden sticks until they died," the court said.

The court quoted Mahmoud Khalil, one of the defendants, as stating that his family decided to exact revenge from the victim's family because of the continuous fights, "and because he couldn't forgive the harm caused to his teeth by Jamil Salim in a previous fight."

All verdicts handed down by the tribunal will automatically be reviewed by the Court of Cassation within 30 days.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mutawi leaves for UAE conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi Saturday left for the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he will attend a seminar entitled "The Arab World: The Future and the Role of the Arab League." The two-day seminar was organised under the patronage of UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

Jordanian folklore festival planned in Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Culture will hold a festival for Jordanian folklore arts in Aqaba Nov. 19-23. According to ministry sources, about twenty local troupes are taking part in the festival.

PSD announces department closures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) said the departments of residency, borders, and driving licences will be closed Nov. 3-5 due to the general elections. PSD sources said the departments will re-open on Nov. 6.

National building code put into effect

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Saturday issued an official statement to activate the national building code. The statement underlined the need for all concerned departments and offices, as well as the Jordan Engineers Association, not to issue building licences

without confirming that the construction designs meet the requirements of the national building code.

Minister addresses Islamic conference

JAKARTA (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi Saturday told the sixth conference of Islamic ministers of Awqaf and Islamic affairs, which is being held here, that Jordan has always called for moderation and that His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan have stressed that Islam is not at all associated with extremism and terrorism.

WHAT'S GOING ON

LECTURE

* Lecture on contemporary Egyptian graphic art by artist Abdul Wahab Abdul Mohsin at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of wicker accessories from Wadi Rayan, handicrafts and gift items at the Jordan River Designs showroom (Tel. 613081), until Nov. 23.
* Works by Su'ad Ibrahim entitled "The Soul Rest" at Hannourabi Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5536098), until Nov. 11.
* Paintings by Patrice Cudennec at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 26.
* Graphics exhibition by Abdul Wahab Abdul Mohsen at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 5537598), until Nov. 5.
* Works by Bahraini artist Sheikh Rashid Al Khalifa at Darat Al Funum, Jabal Weibdeh, until Nov. 15. Also displaying a new collection of works by contemporary Arab artists (Tel. 643251/2).

Yeltsin-Hashimoto 'no necktie' summit kicks off with boat trip

KRASNOYARSK, Russia (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin wrapped Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in a bear-hug and took him on a boat trip Saturday at the start of a two-day Siberian summit "without neckties," designed to forge a friendship between the two leaders.

Fog, drizzle and snow at Sosna, a government retreat in a pine forest near Krasnoyarsk, did not dampen the spirits of the two leaders, who grinned and shook hands warmly, dispelling some of the frost that has chilled Russian-Japanese relations for decades.

Wearing a bright yellow ski jacket, Mr. Hashimoto, a photo enthusiast, snapped a picture of Mr. Yeltsin with a compact camera and then presented him with an identical camera, still in its box.

Grinning broadly, Mr. Yeltsin hugged Mr. Hashimoto in front of journalists gathered outside Sosna's two concrete and wood two-storey cottages set 50 metres apart, where the leaders were to spend their weekend.

Mr. Hashimoto looked surprised but then laughed, and Mr. Yeltsin, towering over him in a green raincoat, led him to a nearby white launch for a fishing trip on the mighty Yenisei River.

In keeping with the infor-

malty of the summit, neither leader wore a tie.

But security was tight, with police posted all along the route between Krasnoyarsk and the government residence, while other security men, including black-uniformed Kremlin guards, patrolled the river and grounds.

It was the third Yeltsin-Hashimoto meeting, ITAR-TASS reported.

They first met at the Moscow nuclear security summit in April last year and then at the Denver Group of Eight (G8) summit in June this year, bringing together the world's most advanced industrialised nations and Russia.

Bilateral ties have been strained since the end of World War II because of a sovereignty dispute over the southern Kuril Islands lying in the Pacific just north of Japan, which were seized by Soviet troops in 1945 in the last days of the war.

The two countries have still not signed a formal peace treaty.

Moscow would also like to see Japan do more to invest in its struggling, but potentially dynamic emerging market, especially in the far east of Russia, which has huge natural resources but a decaying infrastructure.

Mr. Hashimoto — keen to join the club of leaders like German Chancellor Helmut Kohl who enjoy warm,

informal relations with Mr. Yeltsin — told reporters on his plane Saturday that moving towards a peace settlement was paramount.

"We want to see what happened in this century settled within this century," he said.

"I believe we both have a responsibility to give a clear direction. If we can make a start in that direction this time, I will be able to leave Krasnoyarsk happy."

The Kremlin echoed Mr. Hashimoto's priorities. "The aim of the meeting is not to sign documents or accords," spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said before the summit. "The goal is ... to establish friendly relations between the leaders of two countries, relations of trust, relations of mutual sympathy, of cooperation."

However, joint economic projects were likely to be discussed, including an ambitious plan to build a \$10-billion pipeline to take Siberian gas from Irkutsk across Siberia, Mongolia, China, South Korea and possibly to Japan.

Japanese companies are also involved in the giant Sakhalin-II oil project in Russia's far east.

The Russian Atomic Energy Ministry has also mentioned a treaty on peaceful use of nuclear energy and a boost in Russian nuclear fuel supplies to Japan as a topic for the summit.

Mr. Yastrzhembsky named high technology, communications, transport and military conversion programmes as other key areas where Russia was ready to make Japan concrete proposals.

The summit had a personal touch from the start, with Mr. Yeltsin meeting Mr. Hashimoto at Sosna's helicopter pad where he flew in from Krasnoyarsk airport.

Within minutes they were discussing the vastness of Russia's land and their respective families, including Mr. Yeltsin's recently born grandson, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

Mr. Hashimoto told reporters earlier that he and Mr. Yeltsin had "something in common: grandchildren and a wife to make sure we don't drink excessively."

In addition to the camera, Mr. Hashimoto was planning to give the Russian leader two kimonos, a fishing kit and a karaoke compact disc of Russian folk songs.

Sunday morning, one-to-one talks will be held before Mr. Hashimoto visits a cemetery for Japanese prisoners-of-war and also a Russian war memorial, then leaves for Tokyo. Mr. Yeltsin will return to Moscow.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right) hugs Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto after their meeting in the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk (Reuters photo)

Narrow yes vote in Irish referendum on cabinet secrecy

DUBLIN (AFP) — Irish voters have agreed by a small majority to a government proposal to amend the 1937 constitution and relax the total secrecy surrounding cabinet discussions and decisions, it was announced Saturday.

The vote was carried by 52 per cent to 47 per cent with only 47 per cent of Ireland's 2.6 million electorate voting. Eight of the nation's 41 constituencies came out against the proposal.

The vote opens the way for a new inquiry into payments made to politicians to get access to government decisions.

Balloting for the referendum took place in parallel with Thursday's presidential election which saw Belfast academic Mary McAleese, 46, elected as Ireland's eighth head of state.

She succeeds Mary Robinson, who has gone on to become the United Nations' human rights commissioner.

The referendum had caused widespread confusion and resulted in a very low turnout, as well as 66,517 spoiled or blank voting papers.

It arose out of a sleaze inquiry into Ireland's beef trade which failed to get access to confidential cabinet papers after an appeal to the Supreme Court.

The amendment, backed by all the main political parties, will allow access to records of government discussions only if the High Court or a tribunal of inquiry seeks them in the public interest.

It will allow a new sleaze inquiry into payments to disgraced former Prime Minister Charles Haughey and ex-minister Michael Lowry, to check if any payments they received had influenced their decisions.

Opponents of the amendment argued it was far too restrictive.

Scotland (AFP) — The E. coli bacteria that causes potentially fatal food poisoning can also paradoxically be used to help fight cancer, a team of British doctors has discovered.

Laboratory experiments carried out in Dundee under the supervision of cancer expert Dr. David Lane have succeeded in producing a protein from the bacteria which improves the human immune system's ability to combat cancer.

A human gene, p53, can trigger defences against 40 per cent of known tumours, but its action is frequently blocked by a molecule dubbed Mdm2.

The newly-discovered Thioredoxin Inhibitor Protein (TIP) in turn counters Mdm2.

"The possibilities of this are enormous and we are on the brink of discovering a whole new way of tackling cancer," Dr. Lane said Friday. "If we can make this new protein work in cancer patients, like it has in lab tests, it could allow the body's own natural defence system to fight 40 per cent of tumours such as breast, bowel and bladder."

Food poisoning from E. coli, which thrives in inadequately cooked meat, recently killed 20 people in Scotland. Another serious outbreak occurred earlier this year in Japan.

Killer germ could help fight cancer

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Jiang heads to Harvard after glitz, demos of New York

NEW YORK (AFP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin was heading to Harvard University Saturday after a glitzy reception from corporate America and an equally passionate cold shoulder from New York officials.

The 71-year-old president was to deliver a speech at the prestigious university and take questions from students in what promised to be a fiery exchange of views over human rights, Tibet and Taiwan.

Even as Jiang rang the bell to open the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Friday, there were muffled jeers on the trading floor and a noisy gathering outside protesting his policies on these three issues.

Mr. Jiang, who has maintained a broad smile throughout the visit, was unshaken.

Flanked by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and NYSE President Richard Grasso, he gave the "thumbs up" sign to traders after he opened the session and then departed for a tour of IBM, AT & T and Lucent Technologies.

With trillions of dollars of deals up for grabs in China's economic modernisation and the lure of its potential 1.2 billion consumers growing stronger, the rest of corporate America clamoured for seats at an evening banquet where Mr. Jiang promised major future business.

However, concerns over China's policies prompted

stock brokers looked on, the band of exiled Tibetans, human rights activists and Taiwan independence supporters called Mr. Jiang a murderer and demanded an end to the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

"We are fighting for an independent Tibet, free from Chinese oppression," said Tenzin Tsultrip, a refugee from the troubled region who plans to further his cause by running in Sunday's New York marathon with his "Free Tibet" banners.

"I'm here wearing this hat of the Statue of Liberty so that President Jiang Zemin can see how important it is," said Elliott Mordkowitz, a cognitive psychologist.

Mr. Jiang said Thursday that he was baffled by fierce criticism of his nation's human rights record — including tirades from Mr. Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

He said China was proud of its ever-improving record of lifting China's 1.2 billion people out of poverty, and brushed off the impact of the demonstrations.

"Sometimes some noise came up. This is just natural," he said.

Mr. Jiang will travel to Boston to address Harvard University Saturday before flying to Los Angeles and then back to Beijing.

His landmark tour — the first by a Chinese president in 12 years — has already covered Hawaii, Williamsburg, Washington and Philadelphia.

Iowa holding its breath for septuplets

CARLISLE, Iowa (AFP) — A couple in the Midwestern state of Iowa is awaiting the birth of septuplets, the first to be born in this country in 12 years.

Kenny and Bobbi McCaughey are expecting four boys and three girls to be born by Caesarean section in about a week, about the 29th week of pregnancy, if she does not go into labour sooner.

The babies already weigh about a kilo each and at 24 weeks the babies have a 50-50 chance of survival, Kenny McCaughey said.

"Their chances are good," he said. The septuplets will be the first to be born in the United States since 1985. Two of those babies died and three of the survivors had medical and developmental problems.

Bobbi McCaughey, 29, has been in Iowa Methodist Medical Centre in Des Moines, Iowa since Oct. 15 so her pregnancy can be monitored.

In an optimistic touch, the couple has already chosen names for the seven: Alexis, Brandon, Joel, Kelsey, Kenneth, Natalie and Nathan.

The couple already has a baby, Mikayla, who is nearly two years old.

Ms. McCaughey had trouble conceiving the first time and was given a fertility drug, Metrodin, which caused her to release multiple eggs.

Doctors will wait as long as possible before operating, since each day inside the womb improves the babies' chances of survival, said Dr. Anthony Gregg, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. A full-term pregnancy is 40 weeks.

Dr. Norma Hirsch, who specialises in newborn baby care, said that the Ms. McCaugheys had been lucky so far.

"To get triplets to 27 weeks is pretty good, and some triplets will go to near term," said Ms. Hirsch. "But if they got her (McCaughy) to 27 weeks, it's a miracle."

U.S. firms welcome lifting of ban on nuclear technology sales to China

BELING (AFP) — U.S. companies seeking entry into China's growing power market have welcomed a landmark deal allowing sales of nuclear technology to the country, the China Daily said Saturday.

President Bill Clinton announced the lifting of a U.S. ban on nuclear technology deals with China at the end of a summit Wednesday with Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Washington.

The decision will allow U.S. power companies such as Westinghouse, General Electric and Combustion Engineering, linked to the Swedish-Swiss group Asea Brown Boveri (ABB), a slice of China's market currently dominated by French, Canadian and Russian firms.

China Daily quoted Westinghouse's chief representative to China, Fred Sperry, as saying his company was "very pleased with the agreement."

"It's an important step and we can really compete in the Chinese market," Mr. Sperry said. "We are very eager to continue our strategy in China and look forward to opportunities in China's nuclear power market," he added.

The U.S.-China agreement will also enable General Electric (GE) to offer China the advanced boiling water reactor (ABWR), as an alternative to coal-burning which currently produces most of China's electricity.

"Permission of the U.S. government for the sale of commercial power plants in China will allow GE ... the opportunity to bring a safe, proven technology to China as it develops electric power generation to meet its requirements," said David Wang, chairman of GE (China).

Industry sources quoted by the newspaper said the United States has been eager to catch up with Western competitors already involved in building Chinese power plants.

"U.S. nuclear companies are very competitive in both their product quality and prices. It is the export control that puts them at a disadvantage," an industry expert quoted by China Daily said.

France's Framatome, Canada's AECL and Russian companies have signed deals with China for building four nuclear power stations planned for completion between 1996 and 2000. China is spending \$60-\$100 million to build up its nuclear power capacity which presently fulfils only one per cent of its energy needs, the newspaper said.

Another Chicagoan set to try around-the-world balloon flight

CHICAGO (AFP) — He may be less known than fellow Chicagoan and record-holder balloonist Steve Fossett but Kevin Uliassi is equally determined to become the first person to fly a balloon non-stop around the world.

The 34-year-old architect and mechanical engineer has been flying hot-air balloons for 16 years and finds the technical challenge of a solo round-the-world flight irresistible.

So sometime between November and February, depending on wind speed, he will set off aboard a balloon named J. Renée, after his wife of one year, from an undisclosed site, possibly in the Chicago area.

Travelling in an unpresurised gondola ferried by an all-white helium balloon, he will drift eastward across the North Atlantic to Europe, then across parts of Russia, China and the Pacific Ocean before floating back across the U.S. west to the longitude of the launch.

"It's really the technical challenge that is driving me more than anything," said the Chicago-area native who began planning for such a voyage 11 years ago.

"Meteorology is the most critical element in long-distance flight," Mr. Uliassi said. "For this reason, we've chosen Bob Rice, the meteorologist with the most experience in long-distance manned ballooning."

Mr. Rice will pick the launch date and will be responsible for plotting the balloon's trajectory in the Jet Stream, said Mr. Uliassi, a professional balloon pilot and former balloon pilot instructor.

There have been 10 serious efforts by balloonists to fly nonstop around the world since 1981, including the latest by Mr. Fossett, who fell short last January.

But Mr. Fossett, 53, set a new record for the longest balloon flight after staying aloft aboard his Solo Spirit for six days, two hours and 44 minutes on a journey from St. Louis to Sultanpur, India.

He plans to make a new attempt in December or January in a mission that will be coordinated by Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mission control for Mr. Uliassi's flight will be at his alma mater, the Illinois Institute of Technology here.

His hot air/gas hybrid balloon — known as a rozier after its 18th century inventor Jean Francois de Rozier — will reflect and absorb sunlight so that it will remain at a level altitude during the day and at night when contraction of the cooling gas would normally cause it to sink.

In the next few weeks, Mr. Uliassi will travel to Bristol, England where his nylon and polyurethane balloon is being built.

"Our new envelope could keep the balloon aloft up to 20 days," he said. "That's more than enough time to circle the globe, and probably longer than a solo pilot could endure the cold and oxygen-deficient atmosphere."

To combat fatigue, he will be advised by Dr. Peter Hackett, a physician and expert on high-altitude physiology who scaled Mount Everest alone in 1981.

Wife of Chinese dissident asks Jiang Zemin to help find missing husband

BEIJING (AFP) — The wife of Liu Nianchun has sent a letter to President Jiang Zemin asking him to help find the Chinese dissident, saying he has disappeared into China's labour camp system, a U.S.-based human rights group said Saturday.

The letter of Chu Hailan was the latest in a series of appeals to Mr. Jiang to act on the country's much-criticised human rights record as the Chinese leader toured the United States.

Ms. Chu said officials at

Shuanghe labour camp in the northeastern Chinese province of Heilongjiang told her when she went on a visit on Oct. 25 that Mr. Liu has been transferred to Tuanhe labour camp outside Beijing. Human Rights in China said in a statement.

The New York-based Human Rights Watchdog said officials at Tuanhe initially told Ms. Chu her husband was in the labour camp and that she could visit whenever she wanted. But when she went to Tuanhe labour camp

Thursday, she was told that Mr. Liu was not there, the human rights group said.

Mr. Liu, 48, was held in secret for 14 months following his arrest on May 21, 1995, after he signed a petition demanding that workers be allowed to set up independent trade unions.

Mr. Chu had written several letters to Jiang asking him to grant medical parole to her husband who she said is suffering from severe intestinal problems and festering sores on his jaw.

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Japan may
...gher green
...s reduction

Narrow
yes vote
in Irish
referendum
on cabinet
secrecy

DUBLIN (AFP) — In a narrow vote, Irish voters have agreed to a small majority to accept the 1997 constitution and to allow the cabinet to discuss and decide on the issue.

The vote was 52 per cent to 47 per cent, with only 4 per cent of the 26 million electorate voting. Eight of the nation's 41 constituencies came out against the proposal.

The vote opens the way for a new inquiry into the issue of cabinet secrecy, which has been a long-standing issue in Irish politics.

Following the referendum, the cabinet will meet to discuss the issue. The cabinet has been accused of secrecy in the past, and the referendum was a response to this.

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Killer germ
could help
fight cancer

Scientists have discovered a new way to fight cancer. The discovery is a breakthrough in the fight against cancer, and it could lead to new treatments for the disease.

Politician detained
after Zambian coup bid,
denied lawyer access

LUSAKA (AFP) — Lawyers said Saturday they had been denied access to opposition leader Dean Mung'omba, who has been arrested in connection with an abortive coup d'etat bid in Zambia.

Mr. Mung'omba, who heads the Zambia Democratic Congress (ZDC), is the first political figure to be arrested under a state of emergency declared after a failed military coup led by an army captain early Tuesday. So far 17 army officers have also been arrested.

Lawyer Robert Simeza said he tried in vain to establish the whereabouts of his client or to get to see him as police refused to cooperate. "Everyone is entitled to a lawyer. It's a constitutional right, even under a state of emergency," Mr. Simeza told AFP. "State of emergency does not mean anarchy," he added.

The state of emergency was declared Wednesday by President Frederick Chiluba. He has yet to be ratified by parliament. This is expected to happen Tuesday in accordance with a constitutional requirement.

Mr. Mung'omba was arrested around 1:30 p.m. (1100 GMT) Friday by eight armed plain clothes persons. It could not be immediately established whether they were police or paramilitary. The lawyer said he was mounting an immediate legal fight for Mr. Mung'omba's release. "I am taking the matter to court," he said.

The lawyer said his client could have been taken to an intelligence or police complex notorious for its torture facilities.

Mr. Mung'omba refused to recognise Mr. Chiluba's reelection last year as president.

Tipped as the next credible challenger to Mr. Chiluba after ex-President Kenneth Kaunda was barred from contesting the polls, Mr. Mung'omba charged that they had been rigged and warned he would use any means to remove the government from power.

Mr. Mung'omba, who ignored advice from Mr. Kaunda to boycott last November's polls, saw his party win only two seats rather than a projected 30 in the 150-seat parliament. Mr. Mung'omba formed his party in September 1995, a year after he quit Mr. Chiluba's government, in which he had been deputy minister of finance.

His arrest came after a day after Mr. Chiluba hinted that political figures might be behind the coup attempt.



U.S. historian Robert Paxton arrives at the Bordeaux court house (AFP photo)

French 'pro-Vichy'
historian to sue
lawyer after Papon
case hearing

PARIS (AFP) — A controversial French historian threatened legal action late Friday against a lawyer in the trial of former Vichy government official Maurice Papon on charges of crimes against humanity.

Henri Amouroux, 77, author of a number of books on the pro-Nazi wartime Vichy regime, accused Gerard Boulanger of defaming him after he was questioned in court about his own past during the German occupation of France.

Mr. Boulanger had alleged that Mr. Amouroux was a journalist on the Bordeaux-based newspaper La Petite Gironde during the war, attended daily meetings of the German censorship panel, the propaganda staff.

He also claimed that Mr. Amouroux had been a target in the post-war campaign against collaborators with the Nazis.

Mr. Amouroux, who said in his testimony that people in France under Vichy were totally ignorant of what was going on, particularly as regards the "final solution," the German extermination of the Jews.

Mr. Papon is charged specifically over his alleged role in deporting more than 1,500 French and foreign Jews to the Nazi death camps from Bordeaux, where he was in charge of "Jewish affairs" under the Vichy regime.

Mr. Amouroux denied attending any propaganda staff meetings and said he had been unjustly accused after the war by the communist press.

Trial judge Jean-Louis Castagnede put an end to the row, saying he did not intend to prolong Mr. Boulanger's cross-examination, given Mr. Amouroux's age and Mr. Papon's state of health.

Mr. Boulanger, a lawyer for the civil parties in the case, retorted that his freedom of action was being restricted and walked out of the courtroom. Afterwards he accused Mr. Amouroux of "revisionism" in his writings.

Mr. Amouroux's testimony contrasted sharply with that of U.S. historian Robert Paxton, who insisted on the role of the Vichy government in helping deport Jews to the death camps.

The trial of Mr. Papon, 87, resumed after a week's break Friday due to the defendant's ill-health. The former minister was brought by ambulance to the Bordeaux Assize Court from the hospital where he has been treated for bronchitis after being taken ill last week.

U.S. envoy, Bangladesh
president press for political peace

DHAKA (AFP) — The Bangladesh president and the U.S. ambassador here Saturday stepped up their efforts to bring peace to the country's divided political arena ahead of a new parliament session.

Bangladesh's widely respected President Shahabuddin Ahmed hit out at the politicians for being intolerant towards each other and urged cooperation to strengthen democracy.

U.S. Ambassador John C. Holzman during talks with Khaleda Zia, leader of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), explained that returning to the House would be positive for her party, a BNP spokesman was quoted by the Bhorer Kagoj daily.

The spokesman quoted the envoy as saying during Friday talks that the U.S. policy on Bangladesh "is to support smooth running of democratic process and parliamentary system."

Ms. Zia, apparently refusing to budge, responded: "The government has polluted the whole atmosphere, including the parliament."

"If the house is not freed from pollution, it will be difficult for us to join the session," she added.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed told reporters late Friday that there already "is a democratic process in the country" and "we are ready to discuss everything in the parliament."

Sheikh Hasina said she had mounted a personal initiative to end the opposition action and reiterated her appeal to the BNP to return to parliament.

"She (Zia) keeps on saying the opposition is not allowed to speak in the parliament, but we discussed all the issues they wanted to but she never participates in the debates," the premier added.

Mr. Holzman earlier held talks with Deputy House Leader and Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman and a government source said he was likely to meet Sheikh Hasina "soon."

After failing to reach a decision Thursday on ending the boycott, the BNP is set to meet again Sunday.

Analysts here said Mr. Holzman's move was a U.S. attempt to protect its business interests in Bangladesh, mostly in the energy and power sector, and an effort to present Bangladesh as a model of democracy in the region following periods of direct or indirect military rule between 1975 and 1990.

Mr. Holzman urged both sides to take a "constructive" approach in parliament, which goes into its winter session Sunday, and not to damage the investment climate by resorting to general strikes.

Mr. Ahmed told a seminar Friday that "both the government and the opposition shall have to adhere to the principle that the country comes first and foremost, all other things come next, and that an institution stands above all individual parties."

Mr. Ahmed said "cooperation between the government and the opposition is very essential as this two are the two segments of the same circle... No cooperation is possible if they embitter their relation by hurling abuses at each other for acts or omissions in the past or imaginary wrongs in the future."

The Awami League says their demands for inclusion of all 113 MPs in the parliamentary standing committees have been agreed in an "unprecedented" move, but other issues including alleged repression on BNP workers was not linked to the parliament.

The leading Daily Star newspaper's editor in a signed commentary said the BNP should return to the parliament as it belongs to the people, regardless of what the governing party did.

"In fact by boycotting the House, BNP is boycotting the master, which is the parliament, for the crime of the servant, which is the government."

Videotape shows police dabbing
pepper spray into protesters' eyes

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Environmental protesters have filed suit against California police who they alleged violated their civil rights by swabbing pepper spray into their eyes during anti-logging demonstrations.

Nine protesters asked a federal court Thursday to ban the use of the chemical derived from chili peppers that was sprayed or dabbed into their eyes during non-violent demonstrations.

Susan O'Neill, an attorney for the protesters, described the use of the pepper spray as the most tortuous act she has ever heard of.

A videotape showed police pulling protesters' heads back, raising their eyelids and then carefully wiping the liquid on or around their eyes. Pepper spray causes intense tearing and burning sensation.

The footage was taken of environmental activists who were protesting in September and October plans to log the ancient redwood trees in the Headwaters area of Humboldt County in Northern California near the Oregon border.

Vernell "Spring" Lundberg, 17, was among the protesters during a Sept. 25 protest at a Pacific Lumber Company office in the town of Scotia when she was dosed twice with the chemical.

Pacific Lumber owns the Headwater grove, the only remaining old-growth forest still in private hands. Pacific Lumber has cut down a portion of the trees and environmentalists have lobbied hard to protect those still standing.

Federal officials, under pressure from environmentalists, have been trying to work out a deal with the company to save about 3,035 hectares of the redwood forest.

Protesters occupied the lobby of Pacific Lumber on Sept. 25. A group of protesters locked themselves together with a welded metal sleeve shaped in a "V" pattern. The device keeps officers from applying pressure to separate them.

They refused to leave when sheriff's deputies tried to remove them. Ms. Lundberg said protesters were singing when three deputies yanked her head back and put pepper spray in her eyes.

"They pinned my head back and did it again with my tear ducts wide open," Ms. Lundberg said. "Pepper spray is for assassins. People are not expecting law enforcement to act like this."

County officials have admitted that pepper spray was used, but maintain that the chemical was used in moderation and only to prompt protesters to cooperate with police and unlock themselves from the metal sleeves.

State Justice Department officials who approved use of the spray by police advised that the chemical should be used only in self defence against violent people.

The maker of the spray warns buyers that it should not be sprayed closer than three feet because dust or other particles could be pushed into eye tissue by the propellant.

Organised crime threatens Asia-Pacific stability

CANBERRA (R) — The Asia-Pacific region will see an increase in organised crime, in the traditional area of drugs and the new realm of economic crime, a report from the Australian Federal Police said.

The 1996/97 annual report said organised crime was becoming a global business with technologically astute gangs starting to resemble multinational corporations.

"Organised crime has become more sophisticated, mobile and global, and its structures often reflect those of transitional corporations with access to the latest technologies," it said.

"They (criminal organisations) are quick to harness developing technology to enhance activities and to launch new criminal enterprises."

Economic and political stability in the Asia-Pacific would be threatened said the police report, received by Reuters Friday.

"Trafficking in illicit drugs, money laundering, fraud and arms trafficking will have a significant impact on the political and economic stability within the region."

The report said that with the global flow of information and money through new technologies, criminals could now orchestrate their crimes from offshore.

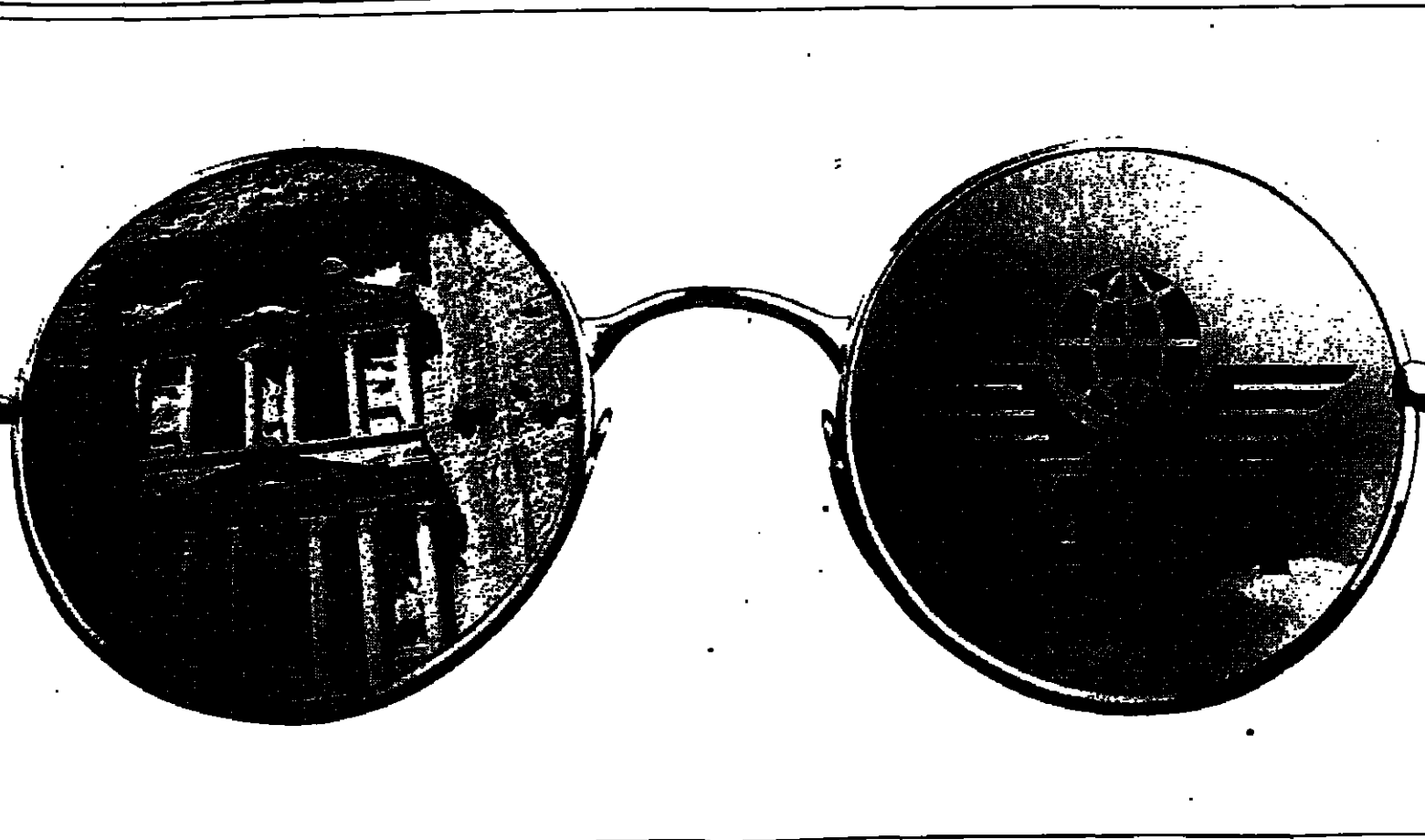
Asian crime gangs, like Chinese triads and Japanese Yakuza, continued to pose a threat to Australia, the report added, echoing comments Monday by Australian police that a handful of Chinese migrant drug lords were now the "Mr. Bigs" of crime and controlled heroin importation from Sydney's Chinatown.

But the report also said cutbacks in government funding had limited its ability to adequately fight crime.

It said funding cuts since 1993/94 had reduced the number of investigations and limited intelligence gathering. It also showed Australian federal police expenditure in 1996/97 was six per cent below that of the previous year.

In a newspaper interview Monday, Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Palmer said only one major proactive drug investigation could be mounted at a time while six or seven other drug syndicates continued to operate at the same time.

An police spokesman told Reuters Monday that only 10 per cent of an estimated Australian dollars 3.0 billion (\$2.1 billion) worth of heroin imported each year into Australia was seized.



Welcome to Jordan

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Jordan Times

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Iraq standoff raises questions

THE STANDOFF between Baghdad and members of the U.N. Security Council, the U.S. in particular, has no clear-cut answers. Our reading of the Baghdad government's latest position suggests that Iraq is not against continued cooperation with the Council's weapons inspection unit per se. Rather, President Saddam Hussein is against the presence of U.S. inspectors on its soil for the purpose of conducting the U.N.-imposed inspections of Iraq's military capabilities especially with regard to mass destruction weapons.

Iraq is not an occupied country and has still a reservoir of sovereignty rights that no international agency can take away. There is a well-established norm in international monitoring regime that says the consent of the receiving country is a sine qua non to any U.N. inspection operations. Iraq waged a war of aggression against Kuwait and was soundly defeated. There is no parallel between the case of Iraq and those of Germany and Japan which were not only defeated in World War II but also occupied by the Allied forces.

Against this backdrop, Iraq stands on solid grounds by refusing to receive nationals of a certain country or group of countries with which it has no diplomatic relations. This position is supported by several precedents in the annals of the international organisation. The relevant Security Council resolution does not impose on Iraq an obligation to accept certain nationalities for the purpose of conducting seemingly open-ended inspections. All that Iraq is obligated to do is accept to cooperate with an international inspection unit whose composition must be from neutral states which have no vested interest in keeping Iraq bleeding forever for one strategic objective or another.

Iraq has been driven to desperation after it became apparent to the entire world that no matter how far the Saddam regime goes in cooperating with the U.N. there are certain countries which are bent on dealing the country a death blow. It is no longer a concern about the ruling regime in a state but the survival of that country that is at stake here. With this in mind the Iraqis must have concluded that a suicide is preferable to a slow death.

When the top U.N. arms inspector, Richard Butler, repeatedly confirms that all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction have been completely dismantled, the prolongation of the inspections and the sanctions beyond seven years change from the realm of the unreasonable to the ridiculous. Washington is thus called upon to show statesmanship and fairness commensurate with its role as leader of the new international order. It is now crystal clear that its designs for Iraq go beyond replacing the Saddam regime with another. That is where it is stepping on Arab interests.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Dustour Saturday lambasted the U.S. and Britain for their declared military intentions against Iraq. The threat to use military force against Iraq and the resolutions passed by the U.N. Security Council are a prelude for yet another aggression on the Iraqi nation, said the daily. The Iraqis, the paper said, have complied with all U.N. resolutions, and have paid with blood and the loss of hundreds of thousands of their people and the destruction of their economic installations for their invasion of Kuwait seven years ago. But all this seems insufficient to placate London and Washington which appear determined to humiliate the Arabs by offensive means in the name of the world community. The daily urged France, Russia and China to abort any "conspiracy" hatched by Britain and the U.S. on Iraq and save the Iraqi people from further sufferings. The paper condemned the gunboat diplomacy and said that only through dialogue can the new dispute be contained.

Al Aswaj's Rashid Hassan Saturday took up the issue of an Israeli report which says the government has allocated \$568 million in the 1998 fiscal budget for upgrading or building new settlements on Arab territories. Hassan said Jewish settlements, especially those around Jerusalem, demonstrate the Israel's determination to wreck all chances of peace with the Arabs and its lack of regard for the Oslo accords concluded with the Palestinians. The writer also referred to a survey conducted in Israel which revealed that more than 27 per cent of the Israeli religious youth were glad that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated and consider his assassin a national hero. The writer said Israelis realise that it was Rabin who had won most of Israel's wars with the Arabs but still they prefer the extremists over the late premier and support his murderer. Hassan said that if the situation persists, the coming general elections in Israel are certain to favour Netanyahu and his Likud Party and will display further the trend towards terrorism and extremism against the Arab Nation.

Dead cats and reflexivity: Major financier has second thoughts on currency markets system

"Markets (have) become inherently unstable, there is nothing to hold them. They can move in unexpected ways and become chaotic. I'm afraid that the prevailing view, which is one of extending the market mechanism to all domains, has the potential of destroying society."

— financier George Soros, 7 May 1997

By Gwynne Dyer

IT HAS been a wild ride in the markets for the past week or so. It may not be over yet, but we already have moments to cherish for a lifetime.

There was the world's most notorious currency speculator, George Soros, losing \$2 billion — 10 per cent of his wealth — in the market meltdown on Monday, 27 October.

There was U.S. President Bill Clinton reassuring anxious investors on Black Monday Mark II that the fundamentals of the U.S. economy were sound. (That was the signal that told the world we were really in trouble.)

There was Byron Wien, investment strategist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, commenting on the huge market recovery of the following day: "You don't know if it's a dead-cat bounce or a resumption of the bull market." (The analysts cannot predict the future, but they do have a way with words.)

And then there was U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, telling the Joint Economic Committee of the Congress that "it is quite conceivable that a few years hence we will look back at this episode, as we now look back at the 1987 crash, as a salutary event in terms of its implications for the macro-economy."

As the panic rolled repeatedly around the globe, with each local stock market reacting to events in the ones that were already open in the time zones further east, we learned much about what 'globalisation' really means in terms of the financial markets. But George Soros thinks we should also learn a larger lesson.

When sheep complain about high rates of predation, nobody pays much attention. When the wolves themselves start talking about the need to restore the ecological balance, however, it is time to listen hard. And though George Soros is a part-time philosopher and philanthropist, in his day job he is the world's chief wolf.

Like all currency speculators, Soros' job is to hang around the flanks of the global economy and pick off the sick and the

lame. It's a dirty job, but somebody has to do it — and economists would even say that it improves the health of the flock as a whole.

Soros is a bigger, better predator than anybody else, but recently he has been having serious second thoughts about the whole system: "Unless we review our concept of markets, they will collapse, because we are creating...global financial markets without understanding their true nature. We have this false theory that markets, left to their own devices, tend towards equilibrium."

of post-modern societies everywhere. As we become richer and seemingly more independent of natural processes, fewer of our decisions are based on the harsh, inflexible realities of the natural world. More and more decisions are based on our estimates of what other people are thinking.

Nowhere is this truer than the markets. The successful player is not the one who predicts what will happen to a given company or country six months hence; he/she is the one who can predict what most other players will be thinking about that

Soros scarcely mentions them because he isn't selling anything. There's no need to sell globalisation because modern means of communication make it inevitable anyway.

The task is to cope with the huge negative effects of globalisation, and Soros is very blunt. "What global competition has done has been to benefit capital at the expense of labour, and to benefit financial capital to the detriment of fixed investment....This destroyed the basis of the welfare state, because you can't tax capital easily...and so high-tax countries suffer because capital flees."

This is an accurate description of the new economic reality, but it doesn't make sense in human terms — or even in financial terms, because the new markets are highly unstable and unpredictable. So Soros is talking about the need for global political authorities that can regulate the capital flows — and thereby create an environment in which the politics of equality can re-emerge from its post-cold war slumber.

We are getting perilously close here to the Love That Dares Not Speak Its Name. Socialism is dead, and even old lefties have been reluctant to mention it in polite company in recent years. But here is the chief wolf himself invoking its basic principles.

We should not be surprised. The collapse of Soviet communism six years ago was a kind of political neutron bomb, leaving only right-wingers standing, even though most left-wingers elsewhere despised the Soviet system. But the left-right argument in its present form is more than 150 years old, and those societies that have done best historically are those that listened to both sides.

When the world's chief currency speculator says that it is time to revive that argument and end the destructive ideological monopoly of the right, it is probably wise for the sheep to take notice. But Soros doesn't pretend that regulating the markets will be easy. Let alone re-creating some kind of social safety-net: "Somehow the accumulation of capital has to be tapped, to provide the basis for social insurance. And that's a tough sell."

We will probably go through a lot more pain and woe before equilibrium is re-established, either in the markets or in politics more generally. But somewhere in the distance, I think I heard a dead cat bounce.

As we become richer and seemingly more independent of natural processes, fewer of our decisions are based on the harsh, inflexible realities of the natural world. More and more decisions are based on our estimates of what other people are thinking.

Soros has earned \$20 billion by operating on the opposite assumption: that global markets, driven by emotion and accelerated by instant global communications, can now go to ludicrous extremes in any direction. He even has a theory as to why it happens.

It's called 'reflexivity', and he discussed it at length with sociologist Anthony Giddens, director of the London School of Economics, in a conversation published in this week's edition of the 'New Statesman'. The actual conversation was recorded last May, long before the current excitement began.

"Reflexivity," Soros observes, "is a two-way connection between what we think and what happens in the world....There isn't such a two-way connection in nature. It only happens in society, where we act on the basis of our view of the world, and our actions determine the outcome, and so shape what that world actually is."

"Infinite feedback" is another way of putting it, and it is the operating principle

question tomorrow. It's about psychology, not economics — and there are therefore virtually no limits on how wild the swings can get.

In a global market where the reactions can chase each other literally around the world every 24 hours, this is a preposterously dangerous situation. And so Soros, speculator supreme, wants more government regulation of the economy. Now that capitalism has no more external enemies to keep it honest, it must police itself.

"We will eventually have to have international regulation of markets," Soros believes. "...[We will have] to find...some international political co-operation to match the globalisation of markets. Because what is lacking is the ability of society to impose constraints on the market."

The global market has positive aspects — for example, it has allowed many Third World economies to break out of the poverty trap by exporting their goods and services to the First World — but

African political leadership: A look at history, principles and solutions

By John Gay Yoh

ON A state visit recently to Libya, South African president, Nelson Mandela, criticised the Americans and other Western nations who expressed their irritation at his visit to the North African country. Among other things, Mandela told Libyan President Muammar Qadhafi in Tripoli that "a political leader must not lose his morale and must be able to face difficulties; and that was how I was able to endure 27 years in prison, so that I stick to my principles."

Leadership is perhaps one of the most important, but difficult-to-maintain values in human nature. One may be a leader of a country, a tribe, a clan, a family, or even of a football team. In any of these roles, the leader's actions or his/her failure to act can affect the course of his country, society or group. The difference between a leader and leadership is that one cannot be considered a leader without having some "qualities" of leadership. The essence of leadership, in my opinion, is the ability to persuade, through practical positive actions, others to comply with one's wishes. Yet, some people may win leadership through military coups, others through bribery, some through elections, and yet others through commitment to principles, and practical-hard-sincere work.

How can leadership qualities be examined in African countries today? In African history, some individuals had drawn their peoples to pursue goals that they had already committed themselves to achieving: Jomo Kenyatta, Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Emperor Haile Selassie, Nelson Mandela and many more, who shaped the lives and histories of their nations at different times. On the other extreme, Adolf Hitler won a widespread following from Germans through his attacks on the inequities of Versailles and the treachery of "aliens" within the Aryan state. We can therefore say that leadership involves a deep commitment by the leader to a mission, and that, as a condition for success, followers must accept that commitment.

While leadership may fall within this heroic mould, it is also fair to add that it involves some coherent compromise out of diversity of conflicting interests within a given society. Thus the leader's ability to act, rather than being a passive beneficiary of events, signifies the essence of being a leader. To put it differently, being a leader entails doing something, something which must provide solutions to problems and must win followers. But what do we really

mean by a leader? In every country, specially in Africa, there are too many leaders. In an institutional sense, the head of the dominant hierarchy in the government may carry the title of leader. Thus the head of the government, whether in presidential, parliamentary or constitutional monarchy systems may have the honour of being referred to as a leader of his/her country. We may also refer to someone outside the institutions of the government as a leader, as long as he/she is able to override the top government office holder, like the case of Iranian spiritual leaders.

Leadership may therefore be defined as a relationship between individuals, in which

...most of the African leaders who resorted to the use of force had to dehumanize their subjects and distance themselves from citizens.

one person — say a prime minister, a king/queen, or a president — manages to get others to do what he/she wishes, within the context of common good. But of course not all relationships involve leadership as stated earlier. Dictators may rule nations for 27 or 32 years, as did Mobutu and Kaunda in Zambia and Zaire, in the name of their common good, but actually work against their peoples interests for so long.

A hijacker may ask a 'pilot' to change his/her flight route under gunpoint: this is not a type of leadership we are talking about. Leadership therefore involves the notion of "voluntary compliance" by those over whom it is exercised. But again, it is possible that some leaders would resort to

force in order to get some compliance, as did presidents Jaafar Numeiri and Siad Barre.

A power-oriented, unlike programme-oriented leader, may favour coercion over persuasion, as was the case in Malawi under President Banda, who ruled that country for more than three decades. But even if that leader prefers force over persuasive management, he will certainly need to have leadership over some loyal individuals. Even in cases of some most brutal leaders such as Bokassa and Amin (former Central African Republic and Ugandan heads of state), they needed individuals around them whom they trusted to apply coercion to others. Idi Amin, for example, could not possibly have forced his State Research Bureau and military generals to kill thousands innocent Ugandans unless these people had been willing to do so. But again, it is always true that using raw force against one's opponents, unprovoked, is counterproductive.

As a result, most of the African leaders who resorted to the use of force had to dehumanise their subjects and distance themselves from citizens. Thus the followers will cease voluntary obedience. Again, not all leaders fall into this heavy-handed conduct. Some will be checked by their own moral code and other inhibitions, as President Mandela stated above. Yet some will be stopped by checks within the political system, positive-active political opposition, or by pressures from groups beyond their control.

Nigerian dictators are good examples: when these restraints are weak or absent, the leaders of these nations can easily fall into using force to maintain their power. Thus the restraints we referred to would have no effect on them.

It is therefore necessary that an African leader who wants his/her wishes carried out, even without his/her direct supervision, has to convince or persuade people through actions, and not only words, to support him voluntarily. But of course not all the people in the society will share his vision of what is good for the people. There are some in the society who would feel that they know more than the leader. Some who feel that they have more academic qualifications or more responsibilities; and yet we have others who, for the sake of power, would do everything to discredit or undermine all that the leader plans to achieve for the welfare and the future of his/her people.

But again, we should not look at the African opposition groups as merely

power-oriented individuals, whose main aim is to capture power by all means. There are certain qualitative measures which make some politicians behave that way. After all, opposition, in my opinion, entails that, if 60 per cent of the population are content with the programme of the ruling party, the other 40 per cent may feel that certain programmes or projects deserve more attention than those the government and its supporters are implementing. In the final analysis, there can never be opposition against the interests of 60 per cent of the population.

Because in principle, opposition should mean that certain things have priority over others, but it should never mean that those who are in power do not deserve to rule! It is a matter of prioritisation, and that is where the role of wise leadership comes in.

There are certain constraints which sometimes limit the choices of power-oriented politicians. These restraints are so many and can only be limited by leaders' imaginations and conscience. For example, there are limits imposed by actors beyond the leader's own state — the power interests of other countries which are more powerful than the leader's. Then the limits imposed by financial institutions — such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which may impose some form of sanctions. There are the restraints within the country itself: environmental and physical resource limitations; common values within the society; the perceived self-interest of various tribal groups and political institutions; the revelations of conduct in accordance with the society's values and interests. Finally, there is the leader's own personal moral code of ethics, such as ability and time available. Some African leaders such as Robert Mugabe and Sir Dawuda Jawara, prefer to spend a long-time on tours overseas with their families and leave the government business unattended.

In the final analysis, if all depends on the leader's wisdom and his/her commitment to the mission, and he/she is the only one who should know better why he/she chose to lead his country in the first place. But it takes the voluntary, visionary, duty-bound commitment of a Mandela and the political, moral sincerity of a Nyerere to know why some leaders are successful and wiser than others.

The writer is an associate researcher at the Royal Institute for Inter-faith Studies in Amman.

Features
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Features

British Muslims distressed by Tebbit's dark vision

By Kim Sengupta

NORMAN TEBBIT has of course raised the question of race, religion and loyalty before. But to some British Muslims his latest incursion was more incendiary than Enoch Powell's notorious "rivers of blood" speech.

For them Lord Tebbit has attempted to tear away the consensus that binds Britain's multiracial society. He has offered instead a dark vision of a future of division, strife and ethnic cleansing. Within hours of a 15-year-old Asian boy addressing the Conservative conference in Blackpool, the former party chairman was saying "multiculturalism is a divisive force." He added that it could lead to a situation when "this kingdom will become like Yugoslavia."

In Pakistan, Queen Elizabeth welcomed the transformation of the country into a multicultural society. She said in a speech at Islamabad: "A distinctive new identity — that of British Muslims — has emerged. I find that healthy

and welcome... The Pakistani community has been a driving force. Their contribution to all walks of life has won great respect."

Among many Muslims the reaction to Lord Tebbit's speech was one of anger. The writer and broadcaster Yasmin Alibhai-Brown said: "What Tebbit did was disgraceful. It was worse than the rivers of blood speech. He quite deliberately mentioned Yugoslavia knowing that people here had seen the horrors that took place on their television screens so recently. He is basically talking about civil war, because he implies the people in Yugoslavia could not live alongside a Muslim population. By his words he is creating an atmosphere of intolerance." Ms Alibhai-Brown is preparing a report for the Institute of Public Policy Research on influence of politicians on public perceptions about race. Her findings are expected to be passed on to the Home Office.

Dr. Ghayasuddin Siddiqui, the leader of Britain's Muslim parlia-



Youth enjoying refreshments at a London coffee bar (photo by Andrew Bourman)

ment, also deplored Lord Tebbit's speech and in particular what he called the "demonising" of Muslims. He said: "This man is living in the past, multiculturalism is a reality. One only has to go to the areas where the immigrants have settled

to see the life and the energy there. The queen is, of course, absolutely right, immigrants have contributed a huge amount to this country... There are around 40 seats in parliament which could be decided by the ethnic minority

vote, many of them Muslims. Why should these people vote Conservative after this kind of a speech?"

Selim Nasrudin Ali was thinking of joining the Tory party, but is now having doubts after hearing Lord

Tebbit's views. The 47-year-old businessman from Walthamstow, north-east London, said: "I have felt the Conservatives are the natural party for business... so I thought of joining. Now I don't know... He appears to be saying Mus-

lims must give up their culture. This will alienate a lot of blacks and Asians from the Tories."

But for Meena Chaudhury, a 20-year-old student, the appeal of the Tories for ethnic minorities is "immateral." She said: "They

must be bloody stupid to want to join a clapped out old party anyway. Let's face it, what we have is a bitter old man speaking at a fringe thing of a party that does not matter."

The Independent

Mystery: If NATO is to grow bigger and bigger, what for?

By Frederick Bonhart

PRAGUE — The enlargement process is moving ahead rapidly at North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), in the capitals of the present members and in the three invited countries (Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic) to meet the deadline of April 1999. Behind this well-organised effort, pressure is building from other countries to ensure an invitation then.

The danger arises of seeing the present organisation of 16 members increase not only to 19 by 1999 but to 25 and perhaps 30 a few years later.

NATO declared early on that it was changing, and change is now in full swing, yet no plan appears to exist for financing, decision-making and above all the new direction of this changed organisation.

The timetable is tight. The three invited countries are concluding their individual accession meetings with NATO to enable them to adapt their defence machinery. The talks cover the legal, military and financial aspects of membership that must be in place before the NATO Council can certify their suitability. That report has to be sent to the member countries by the end of the year for the required

ratification process by their parliaments.

Parliamentary preparations are moving ahead. This is particularly important in the U.S. Senate, where the administration's request to approve the accessions is likely to encounter most opposition. It is, nevertheless, likely to be the quickest. Approval is expected by next spring. Most European parliaments will take longer.

The biggest challenge will be for the three applicant countries. They will have to undertake considerable changes, not only to harmonise their military forces with those of NATO — which involves organisation, equipment and above all procedures — but in the method of their democratic control.

They have benefited considerably from several years of increasingly close association with NATO, but on the political as well as on the military level big obstacles still remain to be overcome.

Nevertheless, the energy and enthusiasm with which these problems are being addressed are evident, both at NATO and in the countries themselves. So it would be little of disastrous if ratification were not forthcoming, or were delayed beyond the target date.

The blow would inflict inestimable damage not only to

the process of democratic renewal of the three prospective members, but to the credibility of NATO and the ability of the old democracies to influence the world.

The lesson here is that once a formal invitation is issued, the process has to be seen through to the end. Decisions made by the national executive will have to be ratified by legislators.

NATO's leaders have stated that they will review the further invitation process at the next summit meeting, and have singled out Romania and Slovenia for praise. That is being interpreted by these countries as a firm engagement; they expect a formal invitation in April 1999.

At the same time, Austria is examining accession. At NATO, Austria's candidacy would be well received. Austria's defence effort is weak (military spending, at 0.9 per cent of GDP, is well below NATO averages), but the country is politically, economically and culturally part of Western Europe; its geographic position is also a point in favour.

So there could be at least three new candidates in 1999.

But loud protests would come from Europe's north and south. The Baltic states are moving rapidly towards membership in the European Union, which, they will claim, will

put them on the same footing as Austria. Balkan candidates are favoured by the southeastern NATO allies, while the Baltic peoples are well represented in the United States.

Strains on the newly harmonious NATO-Russian relationship need to be considered, but there is a prospect of NATO membership reaching 30 before many years pass.

With even only 25 members, will the Article 5 guarantee — the common defence commitment — apply? If so, will the new members be provided with standard radar, integrated air defence systems, extended airfield runways, eventually road, rail and pipeline links, as is intended for the presently invited three? Have cost estimates been made, and has anyone dared to think where the money is to come from?

If not, then surely it is time. And then there is the more fundamental question: What, when all that happens, will be the purpose of the organisation? A declaration of the members' intent is long overdue. It should not have to wait for the next summit meeting.

The writer is editorial director of NATO's Sixteen Nations, an independent military journal. The article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

olutions

Education can help to shape Jordan's young electorate

By Richard Tanner

IN ELECTION week, we are conscious of the large numbers of young men and women voting for the first time. Every four years, there must be another 10 or 15 per cent of new voters added to the register. Nearly one-third of the electorate is under 27-years-old, eligible to vote for the first or second time. What are schools doing to educate these young people for their responsibilities as voters?

Some may say that they can't do much because schools themselves are not democratic. Teachers "boss" the kids, headteachers "boss" the teachers and the ministry "bosses" the headteachers. Authority rules, O.K.?

The swinging sixties' liberalism bred a number of "democratic" schools like Summerhill, set up by A.S. Neill to be run by the children. They decided what they needed to learn, what lessons to attend and what rules and punishments should prevail. Other schools held meetings at the end of each week to discuss events and vote on proposals, a sort of weekly "majma" where staff and students voted equally. None of these experiments survived the reaction of the West to the failure of its education to compete with the rising stars of the East. Yet something remains of their pioneering efforts in democracy: The school councils and mutual pastoral programmes, subject options and choice of activities.

School councils usually have a "parliament" or representatives elected by each class, supervised by



Children take to the streets of Zarqa waving banners of candidates during the 1993 parliamentary elections (photo by Rana Hussein)

"officers" elected by the whole school. Without much money or power, such councils cannot represent their constituents very well, but at last they provide a check on the autocrats and annual practice in the democratic process. With my school's elections just over, the cynic in me saw many candidates standing for president, vice (sic) treasurer and secretary, each thinking themselves marvellous; their posters covered the school, their slogans promising the

earth; candidates chatted up their friends and relatives, the excitement grew, to end in shouts and tears of joy and grief as their popularity was revealed on polling day. A bit like the national elections, one might say.

But do charades like this, mock elections, debating societies, Model United Nations Clubs and the like teach children about democracy? Are lessons in political history — charism and the American Civil War, the Bills of

Rights and women's emancipation — at all helpful? Are discussions and simulations, charity fairs and similar projects, educating youngsters for the vote? If schools are undemocratic, how can they teach democracy?

Schools reflect society: they are essentially traditional with liberal values. Society starts (and ends) with the family. My generation respected our parents, and were soundly beaten if we didn't! Mosaic law, "Honour thy father and

mother," was taught through the stick or slipper, both in the house and the school, for weren't the teachers "in loco parentis"? The other nine commandments, four to do this and five not to do that, were designed for the erring children of Israel — no democracy there. Indeed, the first act of democracy in the Torah was roundly punished by God — see Numbers 13 & 14 for details.

So much for democracy. But the younger generation

is gentler, more humane. I never hit my own children and hope they respect me more than I did the father who beat me when drunk (or sometimes sober). Did I learn this humanity from school? Maybe when we read "Tom Brown's Schooldays" or Dickens as "Sleepers" in ours, it encouraged the liberal elements to overcome the traditionalists' excesses. Schools do reflect today's gentler society: they teach tolerance and understand-

ing, caring and empathy. But do they teach democracy? Democracy is about rights and responsibilities. Children have the right to eat, drink and rest properly, to feel safe and secure, to health and education, to be loved and cherished. If this is their charter, what are their responsibilities? In the "Republic," Socrates argues, about the duties of all men, but especially the educated elite, the patri- cians needed to govern their country in their later

years. Medieval knights learnt their responsibilities through service; young boys left home to serve as pages and, if they were not good servants, they could not graduate to knighthood, for who would trust the strongman who was unable to serve his community. No more democratic than schools, both models provide the responsibilities necessary to a democracy, values that schools should hold.

The good democrat needs to learn three things.

First, s/he has to be educated to think and to judge, to become a rational person, and equally to know right from wrong, a moral person. Only in that way can s/he make good decisions and act on them. Secondly, s/he has to learn to serve society — Japanese children apparently sweep their classrooms before going home at the end of the day — to seek the common good.

Thirdly, s/he has to be fearless, to stand above the pressure and persuasion of friends, family and the media to do wrong. As the headmistress of a top British girls' school said, "I want my girls to leave here as good citizens, with a healthy distrust of all authority."

Four such values permeate our homes and our schools, if we seek a just and caring society through our families and our institutions, we will produce leaders who put service to society above boosting their egos or lining their pockets, statesmen whom we can all respect for their learning, their morality and their honesty.

Arab Gulf states seen netting \$75 billion in oil income in 1997

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are heading for another year of strong performance of their oil sector as crude prices are set to remain far above their budget projections, experts have said.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, sitting atop 45 per cent of the global oil wealth, are expected to earn more than \$75 billion in oil revenue in 1997, one of their highest incomes in a decade.

"Oil prices are set to be lower this year compared with 1996, when they averaged around \$20. But they will remain above the levels forecast by Gulf governments," said Ihsan Abu Huleika, a prominent Saudi economist.

The price of OPEC's basket of seven crudes has averaged around \$18.5 in the first nine months of 1997 and is projected to range between \$18 and \$19 by the end of the year due to strong demand in the last quarter.

With their oil exports

standing at around 11.5 million barrels per day (bpd), the GCC states are set to net around \$75 billion and \$80 billion this year. The level is below the 1996 income of around \$82 billion but higher than the annual revenues in the previous four years.

"It appears budget projections by Saudi Arabia about oil prices this year will come nearly true," a Riyadh-based banker said.

Saudi Arabia, the world's dominant oil power, forecast crude prices at around \$16.5 this year, its highest projection in several years.

Strong prices were predicted despite the return of sanctions-hit Iraq to the oil market under an oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

Optimism about the oil prices prompted Riyadh to boost projected spending for 1997 by nearly \$8 billion. But the budget deficit remained almost unchanged as earnings were forecast much higher.

Experts said Saudi Arabia

was expected to net more than \$40 billion from the sale of around 6.2 million bpd of crude this year. Billions more will come from the export of petrochemicals and other non-oil products.

While the GCC's oil sector is set to decline in 1997 over the previous year, the combined gross domestic product is projected to grow by at least two per cent because of expansion in other sectors.

Economists attributed the upturn in the non-oil sector to the increase in public expenditure and a wider role by the private sector, which is being encouraged by regional governments with reforms.

Despite the higher-than-expected oil prices, the shortfall in some GCC budgets could persist in 1997 as they are tempted to overshoot projected spending, that was the case in Saudi Arabia, which overspent by nearly \$12 billion in 1996 after a \$3 rise in oil prices. But the deficit will again

be under control, not exceeding \$10 billion as GCC states strive not to lose grip on spending following their bitter experience during the Gulf War.

Heavy cash contributions to the liberation of Kuwait from Iraqi invasion forces drained their coffers and sent their actual budget deficit to a record \$60 billion.

The crisis coupled with their eroding oil income to force GCC countries to embark on reforms, including diversification of their economy, replenishment of their reserves and elimination of budget deficits.

The six members, which created their loose economic, political and defence alliance in 1981, produce around 13.5 million bpd.

Nearly 11.5 million bpd are exported. In nominal terms, their present oil income accounts for around one third of the 1981 revenues but less than 15 per cent in real terms.

Iran stops buying on usance basis

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran has decided to stop buying goods from other countries on a "usance" basis, a system used in recent years which led to billions of dollars in foreign debt, the central bank has said.

The bank's deputy governor, Ahmad Azizi, said the usance system had been scrapped in foreign transactions, but did not say when the action had been taken and for what reason. He said the decision would help Iran save \$3 billion a year.

But he added that Iran owed \$11 billion in short and long-term debt on previous purchases on usance, the rate of interest for deferred payment.

Iran went on a shopping spree following open-door economic policies implemented after the end of the 1980-1988 war against Iraq.

Imports reached their highest levels of around \$30 billion a year in early 1990s, far over the country's hard currency revenues.

Short of hard currency, the central bank urged buyers to make their purchases on a usance basis, a development which led to the country's debt of around \$30 billion in the mid-1990s.

As many foreign banks refused to finance Iranian purchases, the usance system allowed buyers to deal directly with their foreign partners on credit, while agreeing to pay fixed interest for the deferred payment.

The government was forced by growing criticism to curb imports three years ago to save money to pay the debts. It also managed to reschedule much of its debt and arrears with foreign countries.

Iranian and European economic observers said the scrapping of the usance system could mean that the central bank had enough hard currency or established creditlines with foreign banks.

Iran last week put its total foreign debt at \$16.3 billion along with \$15.8 billion in "financial commitments," goods and services purchased but not yet received.

Meanwhile, strict government regulations on Iran's non-oil exports have triggered a crisis in many industrial and agricultural sectors, as the Islamic republic's new government wavers on what economic course to follow.

The troubles began when Iranian authorities intervened in the economy in May 1995 to curb exports, control prices at home, stabilise the national currency and ensure the repatriation of foreign earnings.

Problems have mounted in

recent months as businesses find themselves unable to sell their goods at home or abroad, threatening to bankrupt many industrial and agricultural units — such as rice farms and carpet workshops — and throw vast numbers of Iranians out of work.

"Hasty decisions have resulted in a sharp drop in our non-oil exports in the past three years, and the harm is evident in all sectors," said Abolqasem Shafii, a member of the chamber of commerce and industry.

Iranian MP Reza Akrami warned that non-oil exports "will not even reach half of the \$27 billion forecast for the next five years."

Until three years ago, the government encouraged non-oil exports as an alternative source of hard currency to crude oil sales, which make up around 85 per cent of Iran's hard currency earnings.

Non-oil exports reached a record \$4.5 billion in 1994, partly because of demand for consumer and agricultural goods in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus.

But the demand for Iranian goods abroad caused higher prices at home, prompting sharp criticism of the government's trade policies from radical and hardline circles, opposed to liberalised economy.

In response, the government two years ago introduced a range of regulations banning the export of most products until the domestic market becomes saturated.

And this year non-oil exports are forecast at less than \$3 billion, half the level predicted earlier.

Former president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said recently he had been forced to depart from his initial market-reform programme because of "American pressure and domestic opposition."

The new government is still wavering on the economic direction it must follow and officials appear to be at loss on how to resolve the situation.

President Mohammad Khatami, a relative moderate, came into office in August with the backing of left-wing Islamic radicals who favour a central economy, and it is unlikely he will have more of a free hand than his predecessor.

However, many merchants and officials warn of the consequences of growing government intervention in trade in a country where the state already controls more than 75 per cent of the economy.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1997

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can't stand to be confined a moment longer. Smash through whatever's between you and freedom. Luckily, your sweetheart feels the same way. Make a bold move to get out and your lives are changed forever, for the better. Look to a crazy friend for help with your scheme.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) How long has it been since you had the oil changed in that vehicle? How about the tires? If there's anything you're worried about, get it checked out. Some of the lube stations work on Sundays. Take it there, before it the inevitable happens. An ounce of prevention...

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You're helpless to resist. Your partner draws you out into a day of fun and adventure. You'll have to go along with what the other person wants. There's no point in arguing. You're completely overpowered. You can use that as your excuse, if you get into any trouble.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Watch out. An impetuous action could cause breakage or spillage this morning. By evening, everything turns out for the best. A debt you've been trying to pay is just about worked off. You'll have a good reason to celebrate, so invite a few friends to join in.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Your sweetheart and the kids are eager to go on an expedition, so pile everyone into the car and take off. Your energy level is high, and you've been feeling constrained. Drive yourself to a place where you can run, jump and shout. Don't come home until you're exhausted.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Instead of studying important things today, give your brain a rest. Listen to trivial gossip among friends and family. Wait until they've talked themselves out. Then add a succinct word or two that encapsulates the whole issue. Be subtle. It's more effective.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your mate, of date, has done great things for you in the past. Muster some enthusiasm and get interested in something he or she enjoys. Don't worry. You have a natural talent, or beginner's luck. You could actually win more times than not. A star is born!

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You could tap into an excellent source of income, work is involved, but somebody else is doing most of it. All you have to be is the agent. Rake the profit off the top. Think about it, and then set the wheels in motion. When the opportunity comes, you'll be ready.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Set things up the way you want them to be. Start asserting your authority. Don't worry about the consequences. You'll probably get away with it. Somebody in control may squawk, but you've used to that by now. Move quickly and decisively and you'll triumph.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) It looks like there's quite a mess to clean up. It was worth it. You're a responsible dedicated person, but every once in a while you have to kick up your heels. Now, get back to business. Somebody will nag you to death if you don't do what he or she wants.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You're in a playful yet rebellious mood. You certainly don't want to do what anybody else tells you to. Instead, do something the older folks would hate, if they knew. This doesn't have to be dangerous, just different. Be responsible. Don't get maimed or killed.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) The insight coming today may be startling. It means you have to think in a different way. This always happens when you break out a box. You're discovering more possibilities than you knew existed. Don't be scared. Listen to a wise teacher, take careful notes and relax.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

OECD: 37m jobless in 29 most advanced, industrialised economies in the world

PARIS (AFP) — The world's industrialised countries have said that labour reforms have helped cut jobless rates in some countries but called for a "special initiative" to tackle the global problem of high youth unemployment.

Jobless trends in some countries "are remarkably different from the trends in other countries," Dutch Labour Minister Ad Melkert told a press conference after a meeting of Organisation of Cooperation and Development (OECD) labour ministers here.

"It is not wrong to assume that there is a link" between adopting labour reform and cutting the jobless rate, he said.

He did not identify countries that had failed to implement reforms, but in France and Germany, which have been under pressure to make their labour markets more flexible, the structural unemployment rate rose to 9.6 per cent and 9.3

per cent respectively last year from 7.3 and 8.9 a decade earlier, according to OECD figures.

OECD Secretary General Donald Johnston said that despite falling unemployment in some member countries, there are still almost 37 million people unemployed in the 29 "most advanced, industrialised economies in the world."

"This is not just a labour issue, it is a major social issue," he said.

Ministers expressed particular concern "about persistently high levels of youth unemployment in many OECD countries," the final communiqué from the meeting said.

"Ministers recommended that a specific initiative focusing on youth unemployment should be developed" and asked the OECD to attach high priority to identifying the most effective policies for governments to combat the problem.

Mr. Johnston said one possibility under consideration is a special youth summit involving educators, companies and trades unions as well as governments, hopefully in about a year.

When it came to discussing particular methods to boost job growth and protect the low-paid, such as shorter working hours or a minimum wage, there was general acceptance that as there is no single method to guarantee results individual countries should be able to try whatever policies they thought best, Mr. Melkert said.

"Reduction of working hours is one of the methods that could achieve results," Mr. Melkert said. France and Italy are both planning to cut their working week to 35 hours in a bid to reduce stubbornly high unemployment.

But Mr. Melkert said it must be accompanied by a "proportional reduction in wages," something France is not planning.

The minimum wage debate has, meanwhile, moved forward to accept that there is not necessarily a price in terms of job growth, Mr. Melkert said.

OECD ministers were not all in agreement that any job,

however low-paid, is better than no job at all, but did agree that everyone should have the right to a job, Mr. Melkert said.

The OECD meeting agreed on three "promising avenues for action" to cut jobless numbers: Improving work and training incentives for the low-paid and unskilled jobless; active policies to prevent people drifting into long-term unemployment and "lifelong learning" to keep pace with a rapidly-changing world, the communiqué said.

The ministers also expressed concern about rising unemployment among older men and the "modest progress" in improving job prospects for women, saying that "leaving these skill potentials unused does not bode well for coping with the future challenges, especially that of ageing populations."

For the low-paid and unskilled jobless, the OECD ministers said the first priority is to find jobs for the unskilled by improving their employability, but a lifelong learning programme should also be available to enable them to improve their skills and not be permanently trapped in low-paid jobs.

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THE Daily Crossword

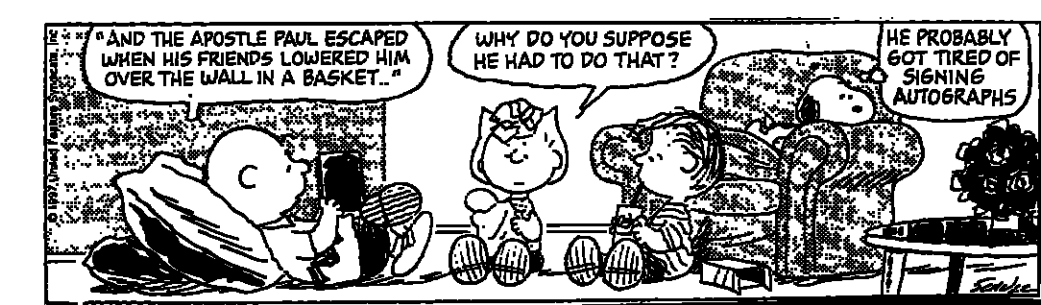
ACROSS

- Author Milne
- Trade
- Instance
- Prong
- Soul
- Seed
- appendage
- Little ones
- Over
- Shallow notch
- Start of Kentucky State motto
- Flower
- GI address
- Relating to
- come birds
- U.S. president
- French river
- Start of a toast
- Previous to
- Shake —
- Fortunate treats
- Miracle site
- Biblical booc abn.
- Which city
- Concentrated light beam
- Islands in the West Indies
- Embrace
- Feline
- Excellent
- Rest of
- Kentucky motto
- Stylish
- State —
- Partner of TV
- Knitting stitch
- Sinned
- Orient
- To — (exactly)
- Appear
- Abstract being

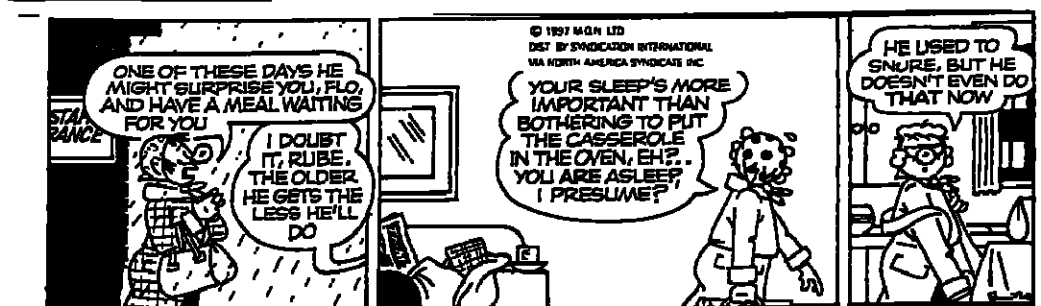
DOWN

- Aleutian island
- Celebrity
- Against
- Young bird
- egret
- Pinot
- Hebrew prophet
- Shares
- Large weapon
- Like the Gobi
- Incite to action
- BPOE member
- Confuse
- One, in
- Dusseldorf
- Egyptian sacred bull
- City on the Missouri
- Drawing room
- Peak
- 27 Ancient Asians
- Stuff
- Rental agreement
- Fish-eating birds
- Time periods
- Predicament
- Certain crackers
- Untroubled
- European
- 40 Path
- 47 French person
- 42 Alcoholic
- Intimidated
- Relevant
- Terrible
- Irish
- Exclamations
- Not so much
- Recent
- Edgy expert
- Shack

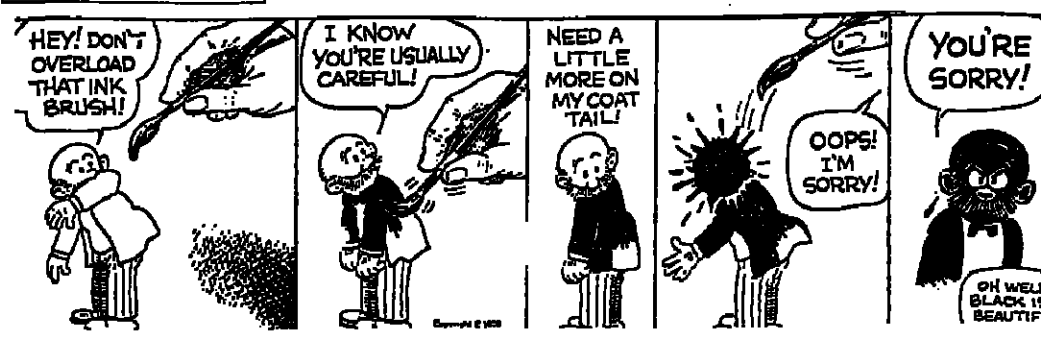
Peanuts



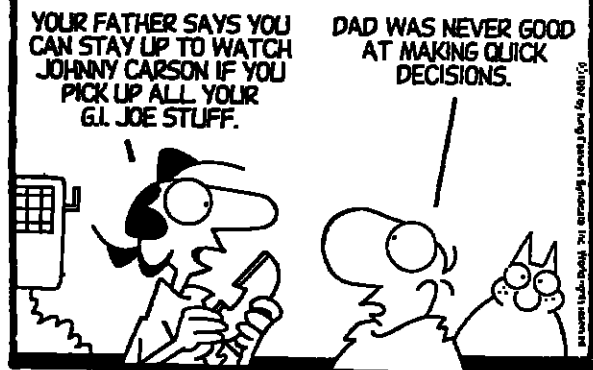
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NORDE

BITHA

DWEAMO

NAANAB

Print answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: SURLY DOGMA LIQUOR BYWORD
Answer: Something a wise guy usually lacks — WISDOM

Daily Business Deal

A review of news from the Arabic press

Civil servants can get JD15 added to their monthly pension if they request retirement this month

**** A ROYAL Decree** has approved a Cabinet decision to temporarily amend the civil service system by offering government workers an incentive to ask for retirement. The offer, which only is available during November 1997, gives any civil servant who has completed the required number of service years the choice to demand retirement against being awarded five annual increments that would be added to his/her pension.

Deputy Prime Minister for Services and Administrative Development Minister Abdullah Ensour explained that the amendment is temporary and does not contradict with nor any relation to government amendments on the civil service system. The amendment will be cancelled from the beginning of December 1997.

Dr. Ensour said the amended benefits those who have the right to retire and want to seize this offer of five annual increments. This offer is far better for any civil servant from moving one grade on the employment ladder because he/she would have to wait for four years to go up that one grade when, under the offer, the civil servant would be given five increments or the total of all the years of service in a certain grade.

The five-year increment amount to at least JD15 to be added to the pension total per month (Al Ra'i).

Ministry starts giving private sector licences to import cigarettes

**** THE MINISTRY** of Industry, Trade and Supply has started issuing licences to import all types of cigarettes. According to supply Secretary General Mohammad Smadi, the ministry's Stock of cigarettes are going down and stocks of some brands are almost finished.

Dr. Smadi said the ministry would be selling all remaining stocks it still has within two months before clearing the

cigarettes that the private sector will be importing. He expected the prices of cigarettes to drop following the decision to allow imports.

Meanwhile, Dr. Smadi revealed that the ministry has replaced 98 per cent of the food coupons that were held by the public and that the substitution amounted to a total of JD11 million (Al Ra'i).

Mideast gas industry faces the challenge of finding new markets

DUBAI (AFP) — Middle East countries should look to new markets such as India and China if they want to become gas major exporters, delegates said at a conference.

"A contradiction has long been observed between the large share of gas resources of the area and the small share of these resources in the global market," Edward Morse, president of U.S.-based Energy Intelligence Group, told the third annual Middle East Gas Summit.

A review of world energy by British Petroleum puts Middle East gas reserves at 45,790 billion cubic metres or 32 per cent of the world's total. But the region's share of world production was only 6.8 per cent in 1996, and in international gas trade it was 6.5 per cent.

Walshe. "The changing views came as gas became the fuel of choice" in power generation because of its environmental friendliness, he said.

But development of Middle East gas exports faces a key problem — near saturation of world markets. Supplies from Russia, Algeria and the North Sea have conquered Europe, while Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei supply the rest of Asia with most of its gas needs, with minor input for Middle East exporters such as Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"Before launching a liquefied natural gas venture, it is necessary to find customers who take long term commitments, usually for 25 years," said Bali Koshar, vice-president of Oil and Gas Group at France's Credit Lyonnais bank.

Only then are banks willing to provide funds, he added, estimating the cost of an integrated LNG export chain at between seven and \$10 billion.

These costs include field development and the building of a liquefaction plant on the exporter's side, and the setting up of a regasification terminal and a gas-fired power plant on the importer's side, plus transport.

Sudanese show high interest in Jordanian products

AMMAN (Petra) — The second Jordanian exhibition which was held in Khartoum last month was highly successful as many contracts were signed with Sudanese businessmen to import several Jordanian products including cables, carpets, plastic bags, furniture, liquid batteries, textiles as well as other goods.

The Jordan Association of the exhibition was visited by Sudanese officials and businessmen, including its president, Kamal Halim Abu Radda, as well as several businessmen.

Syria attends Baghdad fair for first time in 17 years

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The 30th Baghdad International Fair opened Saturday with Syria attending for the first time in 17 years. Twenty-six countries are officially taking part in the fair, which lasts for 10 days. Among the Arab participants are, besides Syria, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Sudan and Tunisia.

Azerbaijan, China, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Turkey and Vietnam are also taking part. There are also about 50 multinational companies, notably from France, China, Australia and others, which are attending on their own accord.

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 11/11/97 20:00

Currency	USD	GBP	CHF	JPY	DM	FRF	ITL	ESP
US Dollar	1.7255	0.5974	1.4005	120.45	1.4077	1692.36	1.9440	5.7784
DE Mark	0.5795	0.3459	0.8115	69.80	0.8156	880.51	1.1286	3.3480
GB Sterling	1.6740	2.8885	2.3460	200.66	2.3565	2833.01	3.2543	9.6730
CHF Franc	0.7140	1.2316	0.4261	85.98	1.0048	1207.97	1.3895	4.1245
JP Yen	0.0082	1.4320	0.4954	1.1622	1.1682	14.04	161.33	4.7954
DM Dollar	0.7104	1.2249	0.4238	85.94	1.17	1201.38	1.3800	4.1018
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0190	0.3526	0.0827	1.0077	0.8313	11.48	3.4124
ESP Guilder	0.3144	88.74	0.3070	72.03	0.7239	870.33	2.8717	
FR Franc	0.1731	0.2985	0.1033	24.2242	20.82	0.2435	33.63	33.6300

Currency	USD	GBP	CHF	JPY	DM	FRF	ITL	ESP
US Dollar	0.7080	3.7506	0.3770	3.6405	0.3026	3.6728	1534.00	3.4000
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	5.2975	0.5325	5.1419	0.4274	5.1676	2188.67	4.9023
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	0.1005	0.97	0.0807	0.98	408.00	0.9065
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8780	0.9485	0.86	0.8087	0.74	4088.57	9.0186
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	0.1032	1.0302	0.0831	1.01	421.37	0.9339
Kuwait Dinar	3.3047	2.3937	1.2346	1.2459	1.203	12.14	5089.40	0.9339
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	0.1026	0.9912	0.0824	0.98	417.56	0.9257
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4615	0.2450	0.2458	2.3732	0.1973	2.3949	2.2184
Egyptian	0.2941	0.2082	0.1031	0.1109	1.0707	0.0890	1.0802	451.18

Currency	USD	GBP	CHF	JPY	DM	FRF	ITL	ESP
Brent	20.46	18.05						
WTI	21.07	21.23						
Bonny	20.46	18.05						
Dubai	19.12	18.90						
UL Gas	197.00	198.00						

Currency	USD	GBP	CHF	JPY	DM	FRF	ITL	ESP
US Dollar	0.708	0.710						
GB Sterling	1.1843	1.1902						
DE Mark	0.4098	0.4118						
CHF Franc	0.5094	0.5079						
FR Franc	0.1224	0.123						
JP Yen	0.5872	0.5901						
NL Guilder	0.3634	0.3652						
IT Lira	0.4175	0.4198						

Currency	USD	GBP	CHF	JPY	DM	FRF	ITL	ESP
New York	7442.08	60.41	0.82	7495.86	7352.69	7381.57		
New York S&P 500	914.62	10.84	1.21	918.93	903.68	903.68		
London FT-SE 100	4842.3	40.4	0.84	4860.6	4763.4	4801.3		
Tokyo NIKKEI 225	16458.94	94	0.57	16635.3	16002.3	16364.9		
Paris CAC 40	2738.3	0.17	0.01	2776.13	2715.53	2739.47		
Frankfurt DAX	3726.69	0.71	0.02	3789.54	3726.69	3727.4		

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SIBELIANI
TELEPHONE: 507171 / 507175
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 01/11/1997

PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
346,000	245,000	ARAB BANK	15.1	1.22	2	80	26380	330.00	329.00	1.00
N 2,340	1,580	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	E	0.00	5	1800	3281	1.84	1.82	-0.02
3,600	2,760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.2	0.00	1	300	885	2.93	2.95	0.02
1,190	.890	MID. EAST INV. BK.	70.3	0.00	4	4000	4300	1.09	1.07	-0.02
2,600	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.1	6.23	19	50150	127281	2.54	2.54	-
5,200	4,600	THE HOUSING BK.	15.1	3.83	19	40856	206728	5.06	5.06	-
4,180	2,440	JOR. KUWAIT BANK	11.8	0.00	22	10025	33227	2.39	3.33	0.04
4,050	3,430	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.7	3.32	8	4700	16939	3.61	3.61	-
3,900	3,080	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	24.7	0.00	2	550	2115	3.83	3.85	0.02
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 236.73 %CHG: -0.25 82 112461 421135										
2,200	1,820	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	8.6	4.55	10	64912	142806	2.15	2.20	0.05
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 116.43 %CHG: +0.24 10 64912 142806										
2,050	1,550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.29	28	32651	61470	1.88	1.89	0.01
1,010	.820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	3	181	164	91	92	0.01
8,900	6,700	ALRAI	15.7	5.71	3	2250	19675	8.90	8.75	-0.15
3,900	2,890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.7	0.00	3	5000	18500	3.73	3.70	-0.03
1,120	.900	BARAK EDUCATION	9	0.00	1	2250	2093	93	93	-
1,350	.640	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	1	500	380	78	76	-0.02
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.40 %CHG: -0.30 39 42832 102281										
4,450	3,030	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	21.1	3.50	27	20451	64218	3.12	3.14	0.02
11,160	9,070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.6	8.12	5	810	8863	10.90	10.95	0.05
3,260	1,340	INDUSTRIAL COM. AGR.	9	0.00	5	1878	2514	1.34	1.33	-0.01
4,700	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.7	4.72	5	2013	8535	4.24	4.24	-
7,250	4,600	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	4.7	4.35	1	1200	5520	4.60	4.60	-
1,750	1,020	JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	14.0	7.08	5	1750	1985	1.17	1.13	-0.04
1,480	1,050	RAPIA INDUSTRIES	9	0.00	7	1200	1670	1.39	1.39	-
690	.450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.2	0.00	1	500	240	48	48	-
1,330	.710	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	2	1500	875	73	71	-0.02
770	.510	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	2	1500	840	57	56	-0.01
1,200	.515	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	1	1000	530	54	53	-0.01
3,000	2,070	INTL. CABLE WIRE MFG.	33.5	0.00	1	200	209	2.20	2.09	-0.11
890	.530	JOR. SUPPLY-CRIM	9	0.00	11	3900	2436	64	62	-0.02
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.3	5.47	4	2500	3213	1.29	1.28	-0.01
1,880	1,080	UNIV. HOLD. INDS.	21	0.00	1	250	305	1.22	1.22	-
1,410	1,050	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	11.3	11.90	5	1100	1054	1.53	1.50	-0.03
1,620	1,300	NATL. CHLORINE	14.1	4.67	4	700	1054	1.53	1.50	-0.03
1,070	.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.8	0.00	1	1000	1800	1.73	1.73	-
1,330	1,080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.8	0.00	15	29800	36748	1.22	1.24	0.02
610	.710	JORDAN STEEL	34.4	6.58	2	450	342	76	76	-
840	.580	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.1	17.24	11	11000	6350	59	58	-0.01
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 115.96 %CHG: +0.05 116 83302 147384										
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 170.76 %CHG: -0.14 247 303507 813607										
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 01/11/1997										
630	.300	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	1	4500	1440	31	32	0.01
610	.380	JOR. TRADE PAC.	10.4	0.00	4	22750	12623	38	39	0.01
800	.600	UNION INV. 501	9	0.00	4	4000	1120	79	78	-0.01
400	.200	JOR. INDS. MATCH-JENCO	9	0.00	5	5000	1000	21	20	-0.01
540	.350	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	40.3	0.00	3	2750	963	25	25	-
750	.400	NATL. MULT. ENG. MFG.	9	0.00	4	5000	2050	40	41	0.01
560	.800	MID. EAST PHARM. 752	9	0.00	3	2550	969	64	63	-0.01
1,400	.860	UNION TOBACCO 757	9	0.00	2	1500	1450	1.26	1.21	-0.05
470	.290	INDS. ENG.	9	0.00	7	3638	1127	31	31	-
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 38 61688 22741										

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Syria broke with Iraq in 1982, two countries that have been toward reconciliation since 1982.

Iraq took part in the Damascus International Fair in September. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said this rapprochement he hoped for "normalisation of relations between the two neighbouring fraternal Arab states."

Alongside the book fair also opened a day, attended by Lebanon, Libya and nearly 2,000 books exhibited over 10 days. "The book" response to the embargo imposed on our enemies," said the man of the fair's preparatory committee, Abdel Halim Farhan.

UAE to build aluminium steel plants

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates is to build two aluminium plants at a total cost of \$425 million to meet demand, Al Khaleej newspaper has reported. The steel project, launched before the start of this year, will cost about \$100 million and produce 100,000 tonnes per year. Its production will be exported to Qatar, Turkey and other countries, the paper said.

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Celtics beat Bulls as NBA season begins

BOSTON (AFP) — The Chicago Bulls suffered their first season-opening defeat since 1990 on Friday, blowing a 20-point lead and falling 92-85 to Boston as the 51st National Basketball Association season began.

Antoine Walker scored 31 points for the Celtics, who beat the Bulls for the first time in 12 meetings. Boston was 15-67 last season, while Chicago was 69-13 and won its fifth championship in seven years.

"I'm really proud of our ballclub," said Rick Pitino, who spent the last eight seasons at the University of Kentucky before signing a 10-year, \$68 million contract to return to the NBA as Celtics coach and president. "This could have turned into a devastating loss for us. I thought we really relaxed as the game wore on."

"The Celtics made a great run on us in the last two quarters," Bulls coach Phil Jackson said. "They showed that they are a great-conditioned ballclub and we're a poorly conditioned one. That was the energy they had tonight. They outlasted us for a lot of the rebounds and that's how they got a lot of their second-chance points."

The Celtics erased a 43-34 halftime deficit with a huge third quarter behind Walker. His three-pointer from the left baseline with 6:31 remaining gave Boston the lead for good at 52-49.

Walter McCarty, one of three Celtics who played for Pitino at Kentucky, hit a 10-footer, giving the Celtics their first lead at 49-47 with 7:15 left in the third quarter. The shot capped a 15-4 spurt to open the period.

The Celtics outscored the Bulls 34-15 in the period and took a 68-58 lead into the fourth quarter. The Bulls closed to 86-84 with 1:21 left on an 11-3 spurt highlighted by eight points by Jordan and a three-pointer from Steve Kerr.

But Jordan twice split a pair of free throws to thwart any ideas of a comeback. Boston scored six of the last eight points to ice it.

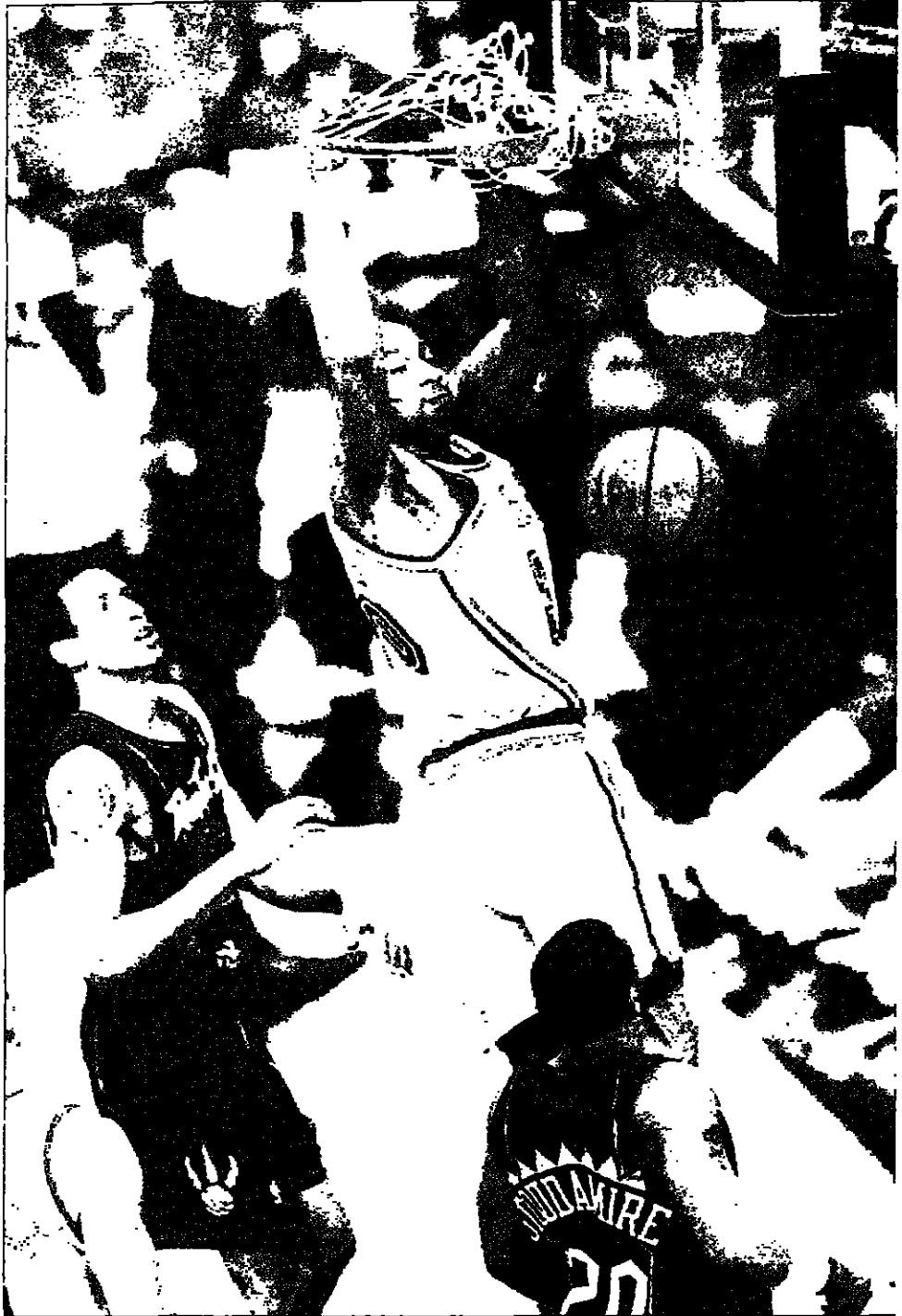
"This sets the tone for us, we know we can compete night in and night out," Walker said.

Jordan scored 30 points for the Bulls, who were without injured All-Star forward Scottie Pippen. Jordan shot a dismal 7-of-23 from the field and made 16-of-21 free throws.

Dennis Rodman had nine rebounds for the Bulls, who were just 1-of-8 on three-pointers and were outrebounded, 52-41.

The last team to take a season opener from Chicago was Philadelphia in 1990.

A devastating third quarter was also the key to New Jersey's 97-95 victory over Indiana, as the Nets spoiled the coaching debut of former Celtics great Larry Bird.



Miami Heat forward Mark Strickland (C) dunks the ball between the defence of Toronto Raptors' Doug Christie (L) and Damon Stoudamire (R) during the fourth period of NBA play. The Heat defeated the Raptors in their season opener 114-101. (Reuters photo)

ter was also the key to New Jersey's 97-95 victory over Indiana, as the Nets spoiled the coaching debut of former Celtics great Larry Bird.

Sherman Douglas, who signed a contract earlier in the day, made a key fourth-quarter basket to give the Nets the lead for good.

Kendall Gill scored 20 points for New Jersey, despite sitting out the final five minutes with a twisted left ankle. Jayson Williams tallied 18 points and 20

rebounds. Reggie Miller scored 35 points and Rik Smits added 18 for the Pacers, who last season missed the playoffs for the first time since 1989.

"You'd like to go home with a victory but you have to play four quarters to play in this league," said Bird. "We lost the game in the third quarter. The home team comes back, the crowd gets going and then it's tough to stop that momentum."

The Utah Jazz, the defending Western Conference champions, also opened the season with a defeat, 104-87 by the Los Angeles Lakers.

Shaquille O'Neal decked Greg Ostertag at a morning shootaround and guards Kobe Bryant, Nick Van Exel and Eddie Jones delivered the knockout blow, combining for 63 points for the Lakers.

O'Neal, kept out of the game with an abdominal strain, apparently was well enough to shove Ostertag to the floor as the teams crossed paths during a shootaround early Friday.

Bryant scored 23 points, including 13 in the fourth quarter. Van Exel added 22 and Jones 18 as the Lakers rallied from a 16-point second-quarter deficit.

Shandon Anderson scored 21 points and Karl Malone 20 for the Jazz, who played without nine-time All-Star guard John Stockton.

Stockton is sidelined up to eight weeks after undergoing knee surgery in the pre-season.

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Formal Gold out of Breeders' Cup Classic

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Formal Gold, the pre-race favourite for the Breeders' Cup Classic at Hollywood Park, will miss the November 8 event due to a condylar fracture in his right hind leg.

The injury was discovered after the horse finished a gallop Thursday morning.

"No one knows what happened, other than he trained great," said exercise rider David Num.

"Everything was normal, we jogged the same. He came off the track great. We took him outside, gave him a bath...as soon as we walked him from the bath, he couldn't walk."

The four-year-old will undergo surgery Saturday or Sunday.

"We're expecting a full recovery," said veterinarian Wade Bird. "The prognosis for a return to racing is excellent."

Formal Gold has won four of nine starts this year and earned the favorite role with decisive victories in the Islip Handicap at Monmouth Park in New Jersey in August and the Woodward Stakes at Belmont Park in New York on September 20th.

He defeated Skip Away, who will now claim the role of favorite at Hollywood Park, in both races.

Formal Gold has earned over \$1.5 million in his career, with eight wins, four seconds and a third in 16 starts.

The absence of Formal Gold further weakens the Classic that has already lost Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner Silver Charm as well as Free House and the highly-regarded Gentlemen.



Fredri Bobic (R) of Germany's first division soccer club VfB Stuttgart fights for the ball with Thomas Linke of Schalke 04 during their first division soccer match in Stuttgart November 1 (Reuters photo)

Kaiserslautern rally to draw

BONN (AFP) — Olaf Marschall scored twice as German League leaders Kaiserslautern rallied from two goals down for a 2-2 draw away to Borussia Dortmund on Friday night and increased their lead to five points.

European champions Dortmund, having a horror season under new coach Nevio Scala, led 2-0 after 30 minutes following strikes from Steffen Freund and Jorg Heinrich, but newly-promoted Kaiserslautern hit back through Marschall before halftime and 14 minutes from the end.

Dortmund were probably grateful for the draw in front of 55,000 nervous spectators after losing to amateurs Eintracht Trier in the German Cup in midweek.

Kaiserslautern now have 30 points from

13 games with second-placed Bayern Munich on 25 after 12 games and facing a local derby against Munich 1860 on Sunday.

Borussia Moenchengladbach continued their climb up the table with a bizarre 5-4 win away to MSV Duisburg thanks to a last-minute goal from Polish international Andrzej Juskowiak — his second of the match. Borussia broke a run of four straight away defeats.

Bayer Leverkusen, last year's runners-up, moved into fifth spot with a 2-1 win at home to promoted Wolfsburg.

Ulf Kirsten, from the penalty spot, and Hans-Peter Lenhoff netted for Leverkusen before Roy Praeger netted a late consolation goal for the visitors.



Lens soccer player Vladimir Smicer (C) jumps over Philippe Gaillot of Metz (R) during their French soccer league match at Felix Bollaert stadium in Lens (Northern France) (Reuters photo)

Lyon stun leaders PSG 1-0

PARIS (AFP) — Frederic Kanoute scored with a superb volley seven minutes into the second half as mid-table Lyon stunned French League leaders Paris Saint Germain 1-0 on Friday night.

Paris were without injured Italian striker Marco Simone and suspended duo Paul Le Guen and Jerome Leroy and then had defender Alain Roche sent off for a second

yellow card in the 24th minute.

PSG suffered only their second league defeat of the season and still have a three-point lead over Metz, Marseille and Bordeaux — although Bordeaux can move level at the top if they win away to Toulouse on Sunday.

Metz drew 1-1 away to Lens thanks to an opportunist equalizer just before halftime from Robert Pires, while resurgent Marseille won 2-0 at home to struggling Cannes by virtue of a pair of first-half goals from brothers Laurent and Serge Blanc.

Marseille could even afford a penalty miss by Italian international Fabrizio Ravanelli — who blasted the ball over the bar after himself having been fouled in the area.

UEFA Cup contenders Strasbourg trailed to an early scramble Thomas Deniaud effort at home to Auxerre, but grabbed a 1-1 draw after Dane Dennis Conteh netted an equally-scrappy 40th-minute equalizer. Auxerre had

been seeking their fourth straight win.

Champions Monaco trailed away to Guingamp, but took all three points with a 2-1 win thanks to goals from Stephane Carnot and prolific

Nigerian striker Viktor Ikpeba — his eighth league goal of the season coming from a clever header.

Monaco are now in fifth spot, seven points adrift of the leaders.

In other matches, Le Havre beat Bastia 2-1 in a wild encounter and Jocelyn Gourvennec netted twice as Nantes

downed lowly Chateauroux 3-1, leaving the newly-promoted side in increasing danger of a quick return to the second division.

Barkley says he will not retire now

NEW YORK (AFP) — Five days after being accused of throwing a bar patron through a plate glass window, Houston Rockets All-Star forward Charles Barkley said Friday he wouldn't retire.

Barkley's decision came after a 90-minute meeting with National Basketball Association vice-president of security Horace Balmer and deputy commissioner Russ Granik.

Barkley had talked about

the possibility of retiring from basketball if the league failed to support him.

"We have stated previously that our policy is that any player arrested or charged with a crime must attend a meeting with appropriate league office personnel," Granik said in a statement released after the meeting. "No disciplinary action is contemplated at this time, and we expect to await the conclusion of any legal proceedings."

Barkley was charged with aggravated battery and resisting arrest without violence early Sunday morning in Orlando, Florida. He was arrested in the early hours of the morning in a night club.

"I'm not going to let anybody throw a drink on me," Barkley told FOX Sports News after arriving in New York on Thursday. "They (the league) told me I should let it go. I told them if they're not going to stick by me, then maybe it's time to go."

Barkley was released on a \$6,000 bond and will be arraigned for the misdemeanor charge on December 2 before the Orlando County Court. The felony charge of aggravated battery will be dealt with at Orlando Circuit Court.

"The guy threw a drink on me and I threw him against the wall," Barkley said after Houston's 101-89 exhibition loss to the Orlando Magic on Sunday night.

"There's always bad apples. Ninety per cent of the fans agree with me. It's always one or two. I'm never gonna back down, so if you get in my face, you better bring your A-game, or I'm going to whip your (butt)."

Barkley has had a handful of run-ins with the law, with this being his second this year. On August 1, a Cleveland jury ruled in favor of his favor after Barkley was accused of

attacking a man in a nightclub.

The 34-year-old Barkley is entering his second season with the Rockets after being acquired for four players in August 1996. He was limited to just 53 games last season due to injury, but averaged 19.2 points, 13.5 rebounds and 4.7 assists as Houston finished 57-25 and advanced to the Western Conference Finals.

NBA RESULTS

Atlanta	105	Orlando	99
Miami	114	Toronto	101
New Jersey	97	Indiana	95
Milwaukee	103	Philadelphia	88
Boston	92	Chicago	85
New York	97	Charlotte	85
Detroit	92	Washington	79
Minnesota	129	Golden State	113
Houston	94	Cleveland	86
San Antonio	107	Denver	96
Phoenix	110	LA Clippers	100
Seattle	91	Portland	83
LA Lakers	104	Utah	87
Dallas	90	Vancouver	88

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA "1" Wesley Snipes & Patrick Swayze ... in TO WONG FOO Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL: 634144 PHILADELPHIA "2" 007 GOLDEN EYE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL: 699338 PLAZA Van Damme... in DOUBLE TEAM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL: 677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" Tommy Lee Jones & Susan Sarandon ...in CLIENT (12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30) CONCORD "2" Alec Baldwin & Kim Basinger ...in TOO HOT TO HANDLE Shows: 3:30, 5:45 only	CINEMA TEL: 079 33430 GALLERIA 1 ABDOUN Nicholas Cage ... in CON AIR Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	CINEMA TEL: 079 33430 GALLERIA 2 ABDOUN SCREAM Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Risham Yanes Theatre TEL: 625155 Watch out for the new play THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas
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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Manchester United set for big deals

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Manchester United, the most commercially successful football club in the world, are set to add to their riches with new sponsorship deals estimated at £30 million (\$48 million) a year. Their five million pound shirt deal with Sharp ends in May and United will then look for a deal with at least eight different companies based on the Champions League concept where eight major groups have all paid for the right to call themselves the official sponsors of the competition. Deputy chief executive Peter Kenyon told Saturday's Express: "The Champions League model is probably the best sponsorship in football today and it is certainly the model of the future."

Batistuta gets recall

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Argentine national coach Daniel Passarella Friday recalled prolific Fiorentina striker Gabriel Batistuta to his squad for the World Cup qualifier with Colombia on November 16. Batistuta has been repeatedly snubbed by Passarella despite his excellent Serie A form but was named in an 18-man squad for the match in Buenos Aires. Argentina have already qualified for next year's finals in France.

Club fined for apple-throwing

MOSCOW (AFP) — First division club Samara were Friday fined one million roubles (\$170) because of their fans' insistence on throwing fruit. The Professional Football League announced Friday. The Volga region club were fined after their supporters pelted apples at a linesman during a regular-season home game against Tyumen on October 14.

17 convicted after football match

LAGOS (AFP) — Seventeen people, including an ex-soldier, have been convicted of rioting after a local football match played last July 19, official News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported on Friday. The riot resulted in several houses and shops being looted. Judge Stephen Wudiri in Bij town magistrates court in north-east Borno state sentenced the ex-soldier, Nasiru Abdullahi, to five years imprisonment on a two-count charge of receiving stolen property. Most of the others convicted were juveniles from the Bui army barracks. They were fined after being found guilty of various charges of burglary, criminal trespass, theft and mischief, NAN said. The judge also ordered that goods tendered as exhibits in court be returned to their owners.

Hartson on misconduct charge

LONDON (AFP) — West Ham striker John Hartson was Friday charged with misconduct by the Football Association following his verbal attack on referee Mike Reed after Monday's English Premiership clash with Leicester. Hartson was incensed by the performance of the Birmingham official, who booked five Hammers players in a match which Leicester won 2-1 courtesy of a late Ian Marshall goal. Hartson branded Reed "a homer," claimed that his performance was "a disgrace" and that "he deserved a nought out of 10 mark." Hartson tried to back-track on Wednesday by issuing an apology to Reed in which he claimed his remarks had been made "in the heat of the moment and were not considered." Reed accepted Hartson's "I'm sorry" message but the FA clearly feel that Hartson's outburst warrants action. FA spokesman Steve Double said: "John Hartson has been charged with misconduct in relation to remarks about referee Mike Reed after Monday's match at Leicester." Hartson, in top form with 12 goals this season, now has 14 days to decide whether to seek a personal hearing.

Giggs to miss Brazil friendly

LONDON (AFP) — Ryan Giggs will not be asked to fly out to Brazil for a Welsh international friendly within hours of Manchester United's Premiership clash with Arsenal at Highbury. Wales face the world champions in Brasilia on Tuesday, November 11 but manager Bobby Gould, after talks with Giggs and United boss Alex Ferguson, has not included the winger in a 17-man squad he named Friday. The Wales party is due to fly out to Brazil late on the preceding Sunday — just hours after the final whistle has sounded in the top-of-the-table clash at Highbury.

Players call off strike

SANTIAGO (AFP) — Chilean professional footballers Friday decided to call off a strike that could have hit the national team's hopes of qualifying for next year's World Cup in France, official sources said. The proposed strike over pay and conditions was cancelled following a meeting between Chilean Football Federation president Ricardo Abumohor and players' union president Carlos Ramos. The terms of the agreement between the pair were not announced. The strike call was sparked by a decision by second division clubs Deportes Arica and Deportes Linars to sack all their players after being unable to pay wages for three months. Chile need to beat Bolivia on November 16 to qualify for next year's World Cup finals in France.

New United deal for Irwin

LONDON (AFP) — Denis Irwin celebrated his 32nd birthday on Friday by being given an extension to his Manchester United contract. Irwin, who has been at Old Trafford since 1990, will stay until 1999. The penalty hero against Feyenoord in the Champions' League, said: "The club is full of quality full-backs — 32 has sneaked up on me. But I feel as fit as ever. I'm delighted the club has extended my deal by another year. There are no guarantees at United but I'm not one who'd be happy on the sidelines. I want to play and I believe I can still be there in the new millennium."

Sainz snatches Rally Australia lead

PERTH (AFP) — Spaniard Carlos Sainz, a former dual world title-holder, snatched a dramatic two-second lead over Scot Colin McRae on the third day of the four-day Rally Australia here Saturday.

And Flying Finn Tommi Makinen, current world champion and leader in this year's championship, boosted his chances of a high placing with a sizzling performance in a Mitsubishi Lancer which took him from sixth to fifth.

"It's getting interesting now," said Sainz, 35, best in the world in 1990 and 1992, after sneaking his Ford Escort ahead of McRae (Subaru Impreza) on the last leg of a sunny, dusty day in and around the Western Australian capital.

"We'll see what tomorrow brings," McRae, 29, world champion two years ago, started the day with a nine-second advantage and stayed in front until faltering at the purpose-built 2.2 kilometre Langley Park stage, next to the Swan River in the heart of the city.

Sainz has an aggregate time of 3hr 2min 45sec, leading McRae on 3:2:45.

Englishman Richard Burns, at 26 one of the youngest top drivers in rallying, surrendered his overnight second place to his Mitsubishi Carisma. Frenchman Didier Auriol, 39, also slipped back a place — from third to fourth (3:3:19) in his Toyota Corolla.

Makinen, who had a chance to sew up the world title here, appears to have missed that opportunity after running up penalties totalling 40 seconds on a horror second day Friday.

But he made up huge ground Saturday. Starting the day 1min 41sec behind McRae, he finished 53secs behind the leader, with a total time of 3:3:36.

Before this event, Makinen led the championship table with 56 points, nine more than Sainz, and 14 ahead of McRae.

Points are awarded on a 10, six, four, three, two, one basis to the top six drivers.

It now seems almost certain the championship will not be decided until the last event on the program, the British RAC Rally at the end of November.

45-member delegation to represent Jordan in Southwest Asian Games

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A 45-member delegation will represent Jordan in 11 events when the Southwest Asian Games begin in Tehran, Iran Nov. 17-28. The technical committee of the Jordan Olympic Committee (JOC) Saturday announced that it had approved the participation of 35 athletes and 10 officials after a long delay resulting from unresponsive federations who only named their athletes at the end of last week with less than three weeks remaining before the games begin.

Jordan will now participate in athletics, boxing, fencing, gymnastics, shooting, badminton, tennis and cycling. Wrestling, weightlifting and judo have surprisingly been added to the preliminary list. Among the declining federations are equestrian, handball, basketball volleyball and table tennis.

It was not clear how many countries would be taking part in the first ever West Asian Games — open to men's teams only — although the Iranian Olympic Committee has offered to cover accommodation leaving only air-fare to be paid by the respective participating countries.

With their budgets stretched to the limit and the season nearing its end, many of the Kingdom's federations have shied away, unable to cover the needed expenses.

According to senior officials, the JOC decided to sponsor medal-winning athletes at July's Pan-Arab Games, while the rest of the federations would cover their own expenses. Jordan finished fifth among the 19 participating countries gaining more gold medals in Beirut than in the past seven Pan-Arab Games altogether, and capping the best Jordanian participation to date since the event was first held in 1953.

The Kingdom took a total of 40 medals, including 10 gold, 8 silver and 22 bronze medals, in the two-week-long event.

Onlookers have criticised the JOC for asking the over-burdened federations to cover expenses when their annual budgets do not correspond to their expenses — a fact that leads many excellent federations to miss participation.

However, the JOC's decision to sponsor excellent athletes paved the way to include athletes in top form to the Kingdom's delegation.

A good number of medal-winning athletes will be representing Jordan including Fakhruddin Fuad (athletics), Mousa Khalaf (judo), the five members of the boxing team, Abdul Hakim Abu Sneh and Ismail Sheikh (wrestling), Ayed Khawaldeh (weightlifting), and Amer Natour (Fencing).

With 11 medal-winners included in their respective teams, Jordanian teams are expected to have a good competitive chance.

Three of the federations participating in the Tehran Games were impressive in Beirut. The boxing, athletics and weightlifting teams earned five medals each while the wrestlers took four. Judo and fencing earned a medal each.

On the other hand, the competitive form of some of the participating federations is unknown like gymnastics, badminton, cycling and tennis who did not take part in Beirut.

Others who took part, like shooting, were unimpressive and easily eliminated from the top qualifying positions. This time however, the team is made up of athletes from the armed forces and Public Security Department.

Some of the declining federations had either impressive results at the Pan-Arab Games or are considered to have good teams that should be best prepared for the 9th Pan-Arab Games in 2001 which will be held in Jordan.

Table tennis took two bronze medals in both the doubles and the team event.

While basketball failed to earn a medal, Jordan has regrouped a new line-up of young stars who finished 6th in Lebanon and 7th in the recently-concluded Asian Championship. Jordan was Arab Champion in the 1985 Pan-Arab Games.

Following are the names of athletes of Jordan's delegation

- **Boxing:** Mohammad Abu Khadijeh, Ayman Nadi, Kamal Abdul Hamid, Khaldoun Abdul Hamid and Basel Hindawi.
- **Judo:** Mousa Khalaf.
- **Shooting:** Mohammad Salem, Mufeed Saleh, Fawwaz Hazza', Raed Ibrahim, Ali Abdul Rahman, Attalah Ali, Raed Mohammad, Imad Ahmad, Ali Ayadeh and Mohammad Hussein.
- **Cycling:** Nader Zgeibeh and Yehya Dweirej.
- **Athletics:** Fakhruddin Fuad, Tareq Najjar, Salameh Abdul Karim and Awwad Sreis.
- **Weightlifting:** Ayed Khawaldeh and Ahmad Fakhri.
- **Wrestling:** Abdul Hakim Abu Sneh and Ismail Sheikh.
- **Fencing:** Amer Natour and two other athletes.
- **Badminton:** Mueen Taha, Wael Mohammad, Rami Halaseh and Tayel Alawneh.
- **Tennis:** Ahmad Hadid, Leith Azzouni and Faris Azzouni.
- **Gymnastics:** Ahmad Abdou, Shadi Khouri and Ramzi Khouri.

Sampras beats Kafelnikov to reach Paris final

PARIS (AFP) — World No. 1 Pete Sampras beat fifth-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov 7-6 (7/2), 6-3 in 79 minutes in the opening semi-final at the Paris Indoor Open on Saturday.

The American, a winner here two years ago, now faces Jonas Bjorkman who beat defending champion Thomas Enqvist 7-6 (7-5), 7-5 in the other semi-final.

Sampras, 26, who went to a Paris clinic for X-rays to his right shoulder after his three-set quarter-final victory over Austrian Thomas Muster, was given the green light to compete when suspected tendinitis was ruled out and doctors instead diagnosed a slight inflammation.

He certainly showed no ill effects from the injury, thumping down 11 aces and hitting some blistering winners from the baseline.

Yet, ironically, it was the 23-year-old Kafelnikov who made the best start.

The Russian, a finalist here last year and still hoping to qualify for the ATP Championships in Hanover in ten day's time, didn't drop a point on serve until the sixth game — pushed Sampras hard in the seventh in which the American received a warning for an audible obscenity, and finally broke the American in the ninth.

But serving for the set at 5-4 Kafelnikov suddenly became tentative and, as he went for percentage shots, Sampras went for winners.

As Sampras came back to 5-5 and the match moved into a tie-break, Sampras' tennis blossomed. One running forehand summed it up. As Sampras ran down what looked like an outright winner he unleashed a searing forehand which left Kafelnikov stranded.

The Russian went from bad to worse, won only two points in the tie-break and then made a disastrous start to the second set by losing his two opening service games to trail 0-3.

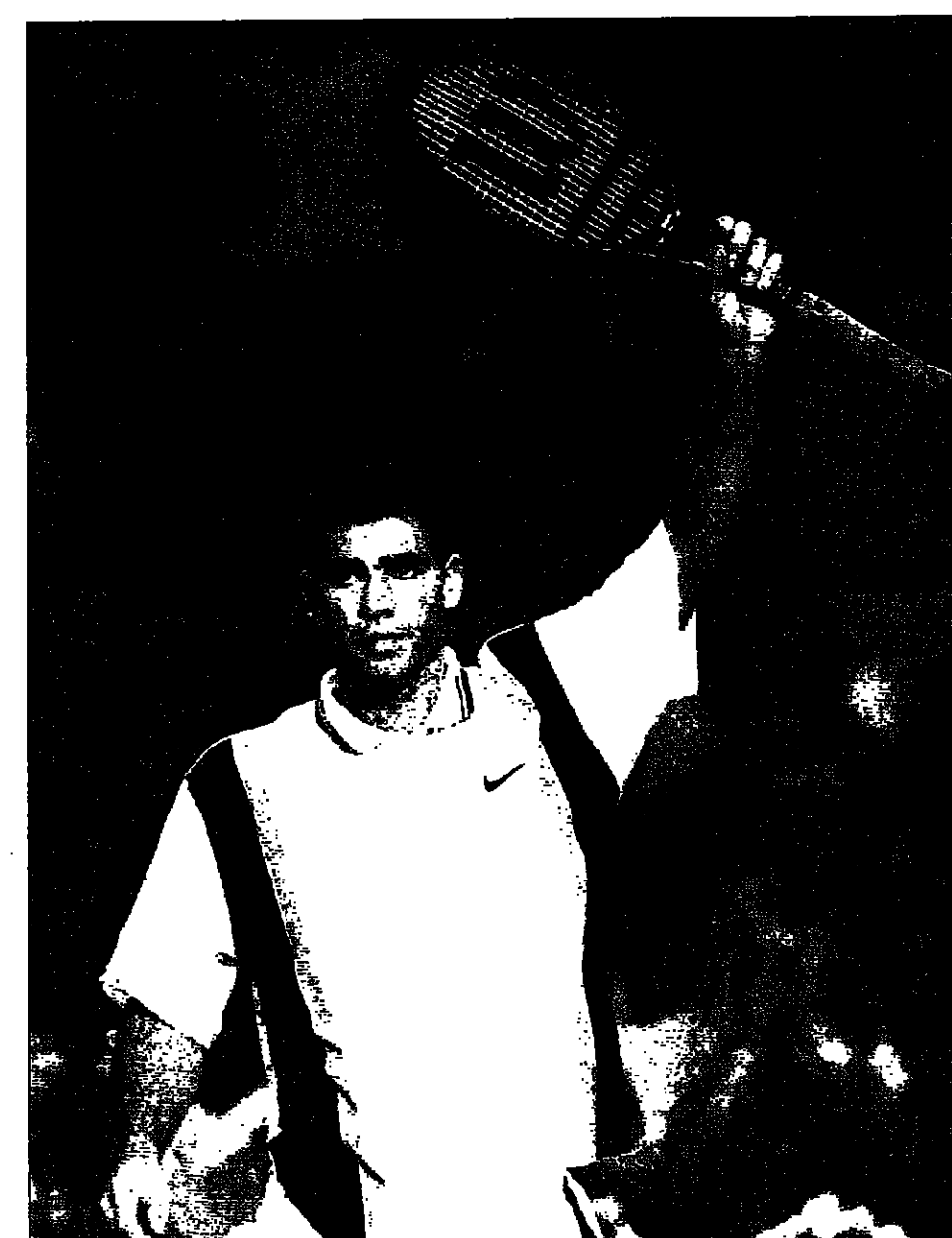
He managed to pull back one of the breaks but Sampras stayed very much in the driving seat — winning one vital point in the eighth game despite breaking his racket strings. Kafelnikov was so upset he then smashed his racket several times on the net and was lucky to escape a warning.

It was Sampras' eighth victory over Kafelnikov in ten career meetings.

On Sunday Sampras will be bidding for his seventh title of the season. He has now won 50 of the 60 matches he has played in 1997.

"It's been a long week," said Sampras after his win — referring to his tough three-set matches against Boris Becker, Petr Korda and Thomas Muster.

Asked about his arm and shoulder injury, Sampras said: "It's still sore and it has slowed down my serving a little bit. But the tests



Pete Sampras of the USA holds up his racket after winning his semi-final match against Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia at the Paris Tennis Open November 1. Sampras won the match 7-6 6-3 (Reuters photo)

I had last night showed there was nothing seriously wrong."

A disappointed Kafelnikov said after his defeat that a "five-minute" lapse in concentration had lost him the match.

"I can't explain it but at 5-4 I just suddenly got tired. If I had won that first set, maybe it might have

been a different story."

As it was, Sampras won 16 out of 18 points and the Russian went from serving for the set to being 0-3 down in the second.

Kafelnikov, whose chances of reaching Hanover now depend on a mathematical miracle even if he wins in Moscow next

week, said that against Sampras it always comes down to "one or two points."

"We had one or two points where the match could have gone either way and those points went to Pete," he said.

"I feel really frustrated that for me the season is now all but over."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ 7 6 4 2 ♥ K 8 5 ♦ 7 8 ♣ A 7 6
 The bidding has proceeded:
 NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
 1♠ Pass 2♠ Pass
 What action do you take?
 A - With 6 high-card points you must respond, but this is the wrong hand for a sub-minimum response of two diamonds followed by a rebid of three diamonds. The only solution is to bid one no trump. As a response, that does not promise a balanced hand.

Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ K J 5 ♥ 8 ♦ A Q 8 2 ♣ K J 8 4
 What is your opening bid?
 A - Look ahead to the second bid. If you open one club and partner responds one heart, you have to bid either two clubs or one no trump next — your hand is not nearly good enough for a reverse to two diamonds. The auction will be easier to handle if you open one diamond and rebid two clubs over the expected one-heart response from partner.

Q. 3 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ Q 7 5 ♥ Q 10 4 3 ♦ 9 5 ♣ A 8 2
 Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
 A - Your hand is worth an invitational bid, even if your range for a one-no-trump opening is 15-17. You have a 4-4 fit in a major. Correct is to start with two clubs. Should partner respond in a major, raise to the three-level, inviting game. Should partner deny a major by rebidding two diamonds, bid two no trump.

Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ A K 8 2 ♥ Q 10 4 3 ♦ A 10 8 2
 The bidding has proceeded:
 NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
 1♠ Pass 1♥ Pass
 What action do you take?
 A - While chances for game are not bright, there is no reason to pass one no trump with your unbalanced hand. Bid two diamonds. Who knows? Game prospects could suddenly be resurrected when partner now takes a preference to spades, showing three-card support.

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Club VfB Stuttgart fights for first division soccer match

lly to draw

es with second-placed Bayern on 28 after 12 games and facing the against Muenchen 1997

is Muenchen's coach continues to build up the team with a big eye to the Bundesliga. The club's goal from Polish international Juskowiak is the second of its kind in the club's history.

er Philippe Goulet of Metz hasert stadium in France

's PSG 1-0

THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE

